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ABSTRACT

This fourth report from the World Fertility Survey examines family size preferences in 23 developing countries in which current levels of fertility have contributed to rapid population increases. Data were collected from approximately 5,000 women in countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and in one African country. All ever-married women were asked to name their ideal family size and currently married fecund women were also asked whether they wanted to have another child. Preferred family size is high when compared to industrial nations and higher among women with background characteristics associated with higher actual fertility and who were less educated and rural. Also, ethnic and religious group affiliation had some effect on the size of the family desired. Knowledge of contraceptives was slightly higher among women who wanted no more children and lower among women who were undecided about future childbearing. Finally, the difference in contraceptive use by educational level and urban/rural residence was small among women who wanted no more children, indicating that the desire for no more children provides motivation for fertility control. (KC)

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Family Size Preferences: Evidence from the World Fertility Surveys

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By Mary Mederios Kent
and
Ann Larson

Reports on the World Fertility Survey (4)

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Summary of Findings

This report examines family size preferences in 23 developing countries, based on the World Fertility Surveys. Two measures of preference are used: the total number of children wanted and the desire for no more children. The countries represented include 12 in Asia and the Pacific, ten in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in Africa, encompassing considerable regional diversity.

The results indicate that:

- Women in the majority of these countries want between three and four children. The range of desired family size is substantial, extending from three for Turkey to seven for Kenya.
- The number of children women want tends to increase with the number they already have, but it is not clear that this indicates a deliberate implementation of their preferences. Less educated and rural women tend to want, and have, larger families, and in some countries religious or ethnic group affiliation has an effect on average number of children desired.
- In most countries, about 50 percent of the women wanted to avoid future births by the time they had three living children. This desire was particularly strong among women aged 35 or older.
- The desire for future children may also be affected by the sex composition of children already born. Women in Korea and Nepal expressed a strong preference for sons, but in most countries a balanced sex ratio was favored.
- Women who wanted no more children were much more likely to be using contraception than other women, suggesting that they were attempting to implement their fertility desires. Also, urban/rural and educational differentials were much smaller among contraceptive users who wanted no more children.

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Fertility Size Preferences: Evidence from the World Fertility Surveys

April 1982
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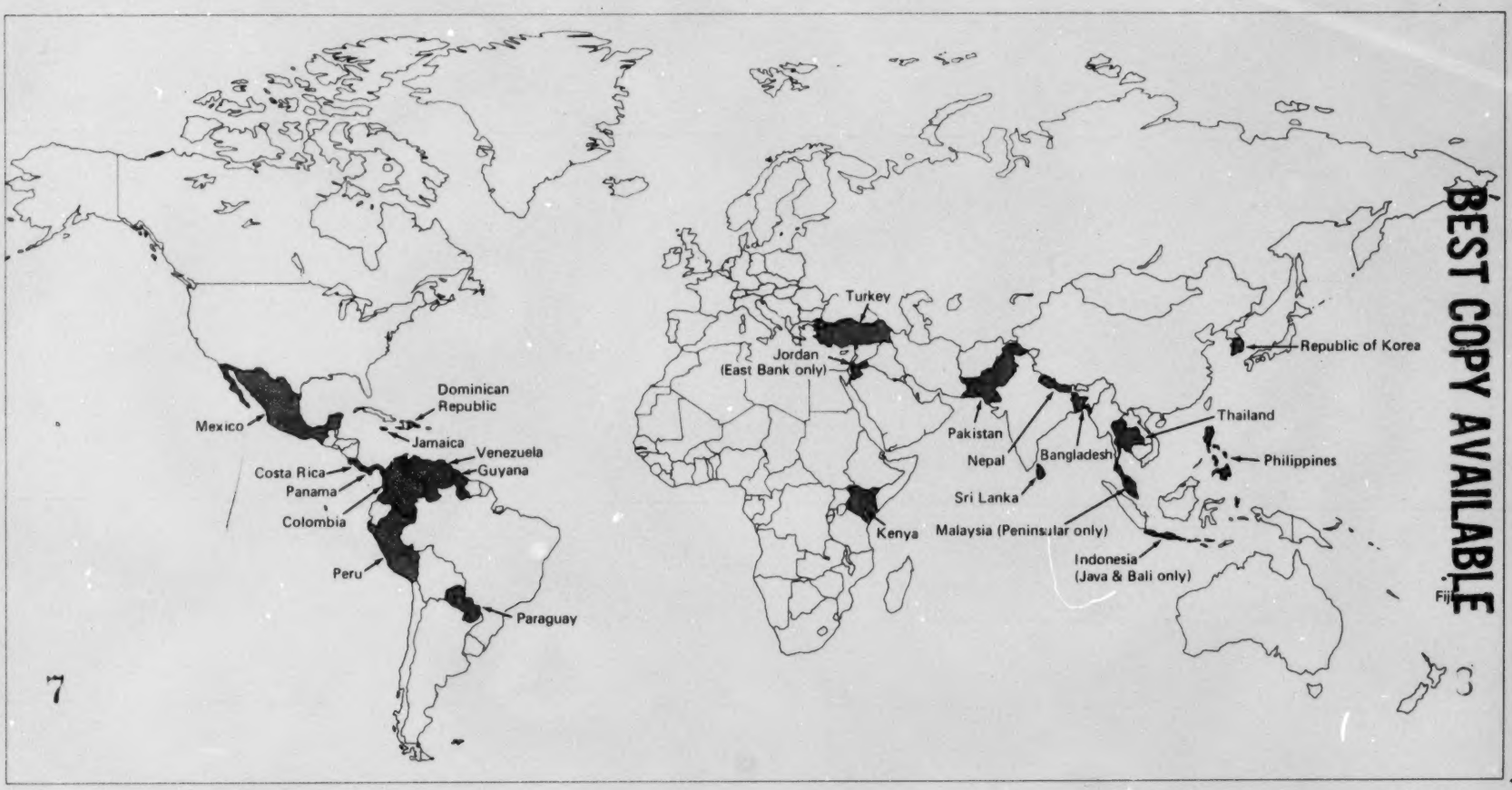
Preface

Family Size Preferences: Evidence from the World Fertility Surveys is the fourth report in a series based on data resulting from the World Fertility Survey (WFS). Begun in 1972 under the auspices of the International Statistical Institute and with major support from the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the United Nations' Fund for Population Activities and the United States Agency for International Development, the World Fertility Survey is an international research effort to encourage and assist countries in collecting and analyzing basic demographic data and more specific data on national patterns of fertility behavior.

The data are collected by trained interviewers, almost all women, who administer the WFS "core questionnaire" modified and translated for local use. An average survey involves detailed interviews with about 5,000 women. Tabulation of survey results has been standardized, facilitating international comparisons.

The first survey was conducted in Fiji in 1974. Within the next few years over 40 developing countries are expected to complete the survey and publish a First Country Report which provides some analysis of the data and a large number of tabulations. This Population Reference Bureau series is based primarily on the data presented in these First Country Reports and other WFS publications.

Figure 1. World Fertility Survey Countries Included in This Report



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Introduction

How many children do couples want? The answers will reflect the value attached to children within a given cultural setting as well as individual considerations. This value would also be manifested in the actual number of children couples have. The family size preferences of individuals and couples provide one of the complex of factors which govern fertility. If these preferences are changing, this could affect the magnitude and tempo of future population growth. This report will examine the information about family size preferences for 23 developing countries in which the current high levels of fertility have contributed to rapid increases in the population. For these countries, the current levels and trends in the desired number of children assume a particular importance.

What determines the cultural norms which influence individual decisions about family size? Part of the explanation may be economic. In traditional, rural societies, children are likely to contribute to the production of food and goods for the household, and large families may be advantageous. However, where farms are small, the labor of children may not be necessary and they may consume much more than they produce. In more formal economic settings, particularly where the labor force consists of more educated and skilled workers, children are also likely to provide only superfluous labor. They usually remain dependent for a prolonged period during which they may attend school, or if not, perform marginally useful, low income jobs. In this setting children may be perceived as being more costly, and, the higher the standard of living and educational level, the higher the cost of raising each child. As couples realize that the number of children they have affects the proportion of their resources which can be spent on each family member, the number of children desired may shift downward.

Other explanations of family size norms are rooted in cultural beliefs which, although they may have arisen as a means to insure a society's survival, may be quite unrelated to economic factors. In some countries, having many children is viewed as a form of "immortality," a source of status in the community, proof of virility, or a cement to a marriage. Childless couples are often considered to be selfish and "incomplete."

The role of individual preferences in determining completed family size is not clearly understood. Family size preferences can affect the actual number of births only to the extent that women within a given socioeconomic context can control their fertility. Fertility levels are governed by natural biological limits and modified by social laws and customs such as the age at marriage, duration of breast-feeding, and the practice of contraception and abortion.*

The most conscious and effective means of attaining a specific number of children is birth control, but its practice is most subject to variation, constrained not only by social sanctions against its use, but often by a lack of knowledge and availability of efficient methods. Even where contraceptives are well known and easily obtained, couples may not be completely successful in limiting births to a specific number. Most contraceptive methods require faithful application on the part of the individual. Many factors may intervene to interrupt its continued use or to block its initiation—including social, religious, and even psychological constraints. In the United States, for example, a 1970 survey estimated that 2.65 million babies born between 1966 and 1970 were unplanned, although since then the advent of oral contraceptives is thought to have reduced unwanted births substantially.[1] Thus, while preferences do play a part in fertility behavior their importance generally depends upon the ability of the couple to successfully practice family planning.

Determining the preferred family size among population groups and sub-groups presents practical and conceptual problems. Not everyone may have considered the matter, or they may have only vague ideas about wanting a "large" or "small" family. Questions about family size preferences have been included in fertility surveys in the United States since the 1930s. This long experience has provided researchers with the opportunity to refine measures of desired family size, to monitor changes in preferences over time, and most importantly, to investigate the relationship between the number of children couples say they want and the number they subsequently have. However, the value of survey data on desired family size in the prediction of births which occurred in the 1970s is still subject to debate. While women's expectations as expressed in the surveys in fact were close to actual fertility during the period, it remains unclear whether this was the result of rational implementation of family size desires, whether the stated desires reflected rather than determined actual fertility, or whether the closeness of the two measures was simply fortuitous.[2] Studies which followed individual women

*With the exception of abortion, earlier reports in this series cover these topics. See page 44 for full references.

over a five to ten year period concluded that while women's own birth expectations successfully predicted the average family size for their peers, they could not be used to predict their own family size.[3]

One difficulty in asking women how many children they want or expect is that individuals may change their minds, although there is evidence that family size ideals are developed fairly early in life. One study of school children found that nine-year-olds had definite ideas about how many children they would like,[4] but could not predict whether those ideals remain constant. Also, there may be a difference between the number of children an individual considers ideal for which is perceived as the "average family" and the number believed best for his or her own situation or temperament. In some surveys in the United States, respondents were asked to differentiate the number of children they (1) thought were "ideal," (2) desired, and (3) expected to have—with mixed results.[5]

While ideal family size may remain constant, individual decisions about a couple's own family size may be changed at different points in the family cycle—marriage, the birth of the first, second and third child, etc. The experience of having a first child or a change in the economic situation may cause a couple to alter previous plans either consciously or simply by deferring action.

Beginning in the 1960s concern about rapid population growth prompted the administration of surveys in a number of developing countries to measure the knowledge of, attitudes toward, and practice of contraception and family size preferences. One common finding of these surveys was that many women who stated that they wanted to limit their families were not doing anything about it. Since modern contraceptives were not easily available in most of the areas surveyed, these women were considered by some to represent a group urgently in need of family planning services. Critics of the surveys have argued that too much emphasis has been placed on the responses to questions about family size desires. To non-literate women with little information about family planning, or who consider their own fertility to be controlled by fate, they argue, the concept of a preferred family size may be meaningless.[6]

Even if women do have definite ideas about the number of children they would like, their wishes may be superceded by those of their husbands, other family members, or the community. Some women may not want to admit they wanted fewer children than they have. Also, in areas with very high infant and child mortality, women may be "adjusting" their family size preference to allow for the possible death of one or more children before they reach adulthood. Thus, there has been considerable debate about how appropriate family size preference measures may be for developing countries and the importance which can be attached to them in predicting future fertility. Nevertheless, questions about family size ideals and preferences have been included in some 700 surveys around the world, a testimony to the interest and hopes of social scientists in expanding the pool of knowledge about this topic. These surveys have been successful in eliciting numerical responses even from some of the most remote and "fatalistic" people in Africa.[7]

A summary of the mean desired family size in the World Fertility Survey (WFS) and selected other countries is shown in Table 1,[8] exhibiting quite a wide range, from only 2.1 for Hungary to 6.8 for Kenya, and an obvious division among the developing and developed countries. Women in Japan and the low-fertility European countries included in the table want between two and three children, while in the majority of the developing countries women want around four children. In only four countries women show a desire for five or more children. Also, in the 23 countries analyzed in this report about one-half of the married survey respondents stated that they wanted no more children.

Focus of Analysis

This report will use published reports on the World Fertility Survey for 23 countries to examine the preferred family size and the desire to stop childbearing among these countries and for sub-populations within countries. To some extent the implementation of these preferences, that is, the attempt by women to translate their desire into reality by controlling their fertility, can also be assessed. This is accomplished by comparing the number of children desired with the number already born on an aggregate level. Measuring action to cease childbearing can be attempted at least by examining current contraceptive use.

Background-Data Sources

World Fertility Survey results are available in published form from twelve countries in Asia and the Pacific, ten in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one African country (see Figure 1). In addition to considerable geographic diversity, these 23 developing countries represent a rich variety of cultural, linguistic, and religious groups. The most

Table 1. Mean Number of Children Desired: Selected Countries

COUNTRY	Mean Number Desired
Kenya	6.8
Jordan	6.3
Sierra Leone	6.1
Paraguay	5.1
Costa Rica	4.7
Dominican Republic	4.6
Guyana	4.6
Mexico	4.4
Philippines	4.4
Malaysia	4.4
Panama	4.2
Pakistan	4.2
Fiji	4.2
Venezuela	4.2
Bangladesh	4.1
Colombia	4.1
Indonesia	4.1
Jamaica	4.0
Nepal	3.9
Peru	3.8
Sri Lanka	3.8
Thailand	3.7
Haiti	3.6
Korea, Rep. of	3.2
New Zealand	3.0
Turkey	3.0
Spain	2.8
Taiwan	2.8
Great Britain	2.6
Czechoslovakia	2.4
Belgium	2.3
Japan	2.2
Hungary	2.1

Sources: See Footnote 8.

homogeneous group consists of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. These include Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. Except for Jamaica and Guyana, this regional group shares a common Spanish linguistic, religious, and colonial heritage, diluted in various degrees by the indigenous culture.

The Asian countries, on the other hand, embrace markedly different cultural characteristics. They can best be grouped by geographic location: Jordan* and Turkey in Southwest Asia; Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in South Asia; Indonesia,** Malaysia,*** the Philippines, and Thailand in Southeast Asia; Fiji in the Pacific, and the Republic of Korea in East Asia. The populations of Jordan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia, and a large part of Malaysia are predominantly Moslem. The people of other countries in the region are Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, and Confucion.

Kenya's population consists of numerous ethnic groups, two of which (Kikuyu and Luo) predominate. Although the influence of Christianity is widespread, various ethnic traditions and allegiances are highly valued among this overwhelmingly rural population.

Appendix Table A-1 compares these countries on a number of demographic, economic, and health-related measures, revealing great disparities among them. The infant mortality rate ranges from 20 deaths per 1,000 births for Jamaica to 153 deaths per 1,000 for Bangladesh. Only four percent of Nepal's population is urban, compared to about 64 percent in Mexico and Colombia. The Gross National Product (GNP) per capita is highest in Venezuela at U.S. $2,570 and lowest in Bangladesh at U.S. $110 per year.

Measures

The two measures of family size preference to be used in this report are the total number of children desired and the percent of women who want no more children. These two measures capture different aspects of family size preferences. The question of how many children are desired was meant to reflect a personal ideal which is largely culturally determined and in part represents the prevailing attitudes among a woman's family and social network. It is assumed to be a goal towards which a couple's childbearing behavior is directed. The desire for more children also reflects cultural norms concerning family size, but with several differences. It is not affected by rationalization of previous births as the first question could be, because it specifically refers to the future. The response is more likely to be modified by a couple's individual situation regarding, for example, housing, health, and finances, or by whether they have experienced a child's death or attained the sex composition they

*East Bank only.
**Java and Bali only.
***West (Peninsular) Malaysia only.

prefer among their children. The theoretical implications for future behavior of women who want no more children are clear: if they are fecund* they must take preventative action to avoid future pregnancies, and thus, become prime candidates for family planning services.

Number of Children Desired

The first measure is derived from the query to all ever-married women, "If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many children would that be?" The actual number named or the mean number wanted are presented for all ever-married or currently married women who gave a numeric response to the question.

Perhaps for reasons suggested in the introduction, not all women were willing to give a definite limit to the number of children wanted, offering instead responses such as "as many as God brings," or "as many as possible." The percent of ever-married women who failed to give a numeric response was minimal—less than three percent in the majority of countries. However, in two countries, Kenya and Bangladesh, 19 and 30 percent, respectively, of the ever-married respondents gave non-numeric answers. This suggests that the concept of a preferred number of children may have less meaning to these women or, if ultimate family size is thought to be determined by God or fate, it may be considered presumptuous to state a limit. Clearly the numeric results from Kenya and Bangladesh are less representative of the total sample than in the other countries.

Another problem lies in the fact that women were forced to chose one number when a range, say three to four, might be equally acceptable to them. Some surveys have used special scales allowing more breadth to responses to obtain the range of underlying preferences.[9] While the desired number of children recorded in the WFS may represent an upper limit, or the middle of a range of desired family size, it is interpreted as the exact number wanted.

An often cited limitation of the desired family size measure is that women may simply rationalize their responses according to the number of children they already have. Women may be unwilling to admit that they have been unsuccessful in limiting their family size or to imply they did not want any of the children already born.

Variations in the interviewers instructions and in the translations of the questions also produced some inconsistencies. In Jordan, for example, the interviewers were told that non-numerical responses were unacceptable, so it is impossible to infer what percentage of women would have preferred to report something other than a number. On the other hand, interviewers in Sri Lanka were trained to accept and record any answer, and yet the percent of non-numerical responses is very small. In almost all the surveys interviewers urged women reluctant to state a number to think the question over and give what she thought was the best family size for herself. In Pakistan, the question was modified, making it a more generalized ideal family size rather than a personal preference. Women were asked "In your opinion, how many children should a married couple have?" In Fiji, the questions excluded unmarried and infecund women, and those uncertain about whether they wanted more children, accounting for 18 percent of the sample. Also, the number desired was calculated somewhat differently according to whether women wanted their last birth or more children.[10] The responses for Fiji and Pakistan, therefore, are not really comparable to those of the other countries.

Desire for More Children

The second measure was based on responses to the question, "Do you want to have a(nother) child sometime?", asked of currently married, fecund women. Women who had themselves or whose husbands had been sterilized for contraceptive purposes were not asked, but were included in the results as if they had responded negatively. All other respondents were excluded from both the question and the published results of this measure.

This measure suffers from several problems of reliability and validity. There is evidence that women in some countries misunderstood the question. In Bangladesh, the question was actually mistranslated as, "Do you want another child soon?," making these responses clearly invalid, but even with correct wording, some women apparently interpreted the question as referring to the near future.[11] Infecund, sterilized and unmarried women, who may have wanted more children if it were possible, were not asked the question at all. This, along with the conceptual misinterpretations mentioned above, may have overestimated the percentage of women not wanting more children.

*Physically capable of bearing children.

In addition, responses must be considered as opinions subject to change. The death of a child, marital disruption, or a change in finances could prompt women to change their minds one way or the other. There are obvious problems in accepting a desire for no more children as a statement of intended or expected behavior. A wife's opinion may be meaningless compared to those of her husband or in-laws, for example. Because of ignorance, or for religious, psychological, and other reasons, she may never even attempt to translate her wish into reality.

Analysis

Number of Children Desired

In most WFS countries, the mean number of children desired was approximately four, and the popularity of other family sizes varied substantially among the countries as shown in Appendix Table A-2. In 13 countries, four children was the most frequently desired family size. In eight other countries, three children was the most popular response. Latin American/Caribbean and Asian countries are represented equally in both these categories. Turkey is the only country in which the largest proportion of women desire only two children.

The percent distribution of women by number of children desired also reveals the predominent dislike of remaining childless or of having only one child. Jamaica has the highest percentage of women stating they prefer to have no children, and it is very small 1.9 percent. In no country is the proportion desiring one child over four percent.

The curve illustrating desired family size is similar for most countries—rising sharply after one child, peaking between two and four children and then declining. But there are some differences among countries. In Bangladesh, Malaysia, Korea, Pakistan, and Turkey, the peak of the curve is more pronounced because a particular number of children is mentioned far more frequently than any other (see Malaysia, Figure 2). Five other Asian countries, Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, exhibit a more evenly distributed pattern, but maintain the preference for two to four children. In these countries a stated preference for very large families is as rare as one for very small families (see Sri Lanka, Figure 2). This uniformity suggests that women in these Asian countries may be reflecting widely held societal norms concerning the most desirable family size.

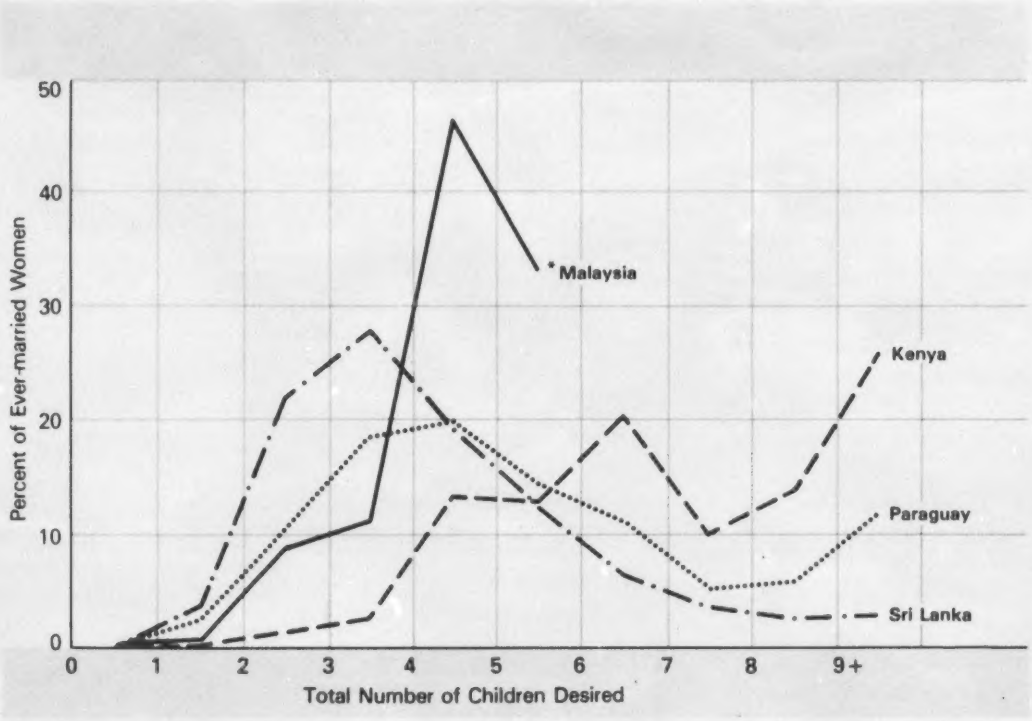
Another pattern illustrates a lower, and sometimes broader, range of most popular family sizes, a gradual decline from five to seven children, then an upturn indicating that a relatively large proportion of women would choose nine or more children. This pattern is best exemplified in Paraguay, but it is also apparent in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, Guyana, Colombia, and to a lesser extent the Philippines. Jordan and Kenya are extreme cases because more than 20 percent of the women reported a desired family size of nine or more. This bimodal pattern indicates a range of preferred family sizes centering around three to four children for the majority of women and eight to nine or more children for a much smaller group of women. This may indicate a recent shift toward smaller family size preferences within these predominately Latin American countries or the persistence of a dualism in these societies in which divergent family size norms exist simultaneously. Finally, the lack of a single norm may arise from a greater tendency in some countries to rationalize the stated desired number of children to be consistent with the number already born.

Both age and the number of living children have been shown to color attitudes toward desired family size. Older women and women with more children generally say they want greater numbers of children. The two variables are related because older women have had more years to bear children. Age can affect the desired family size not only because the experience of rearing children may influence women's attitudes, but because earlier generations may have different norms.

The average number of children desired increases in all countries as actual family size grows. This is illustrated in Figure 3 for three countries with high, medium, and low fertility expectations. For Kenya the mean number of children desired is consistently higher than the actual family size. On the average, Kenyan women would like more children than they already have. In the Philippines (and typically in most of the countries) while the increase in desired family size is constant, women with more than five children want fewer than are already born and the difference increases at higher fertility levels. For Turkey, with an overall mean desired family size of only 3.0, the mean varies only slightly among women with different family sizes. Even those with nine or more children apparently would prefer an average of only about four and one-half.

The mean desired family size also increases with the age of the woman.[12] However, this relationship is largely explained by the fact that older women have borne more children. In only two countries,

Figure 2. Percent Distribution of Ever-married Women According to Total Number of Children Desired: Selected WFS Countries



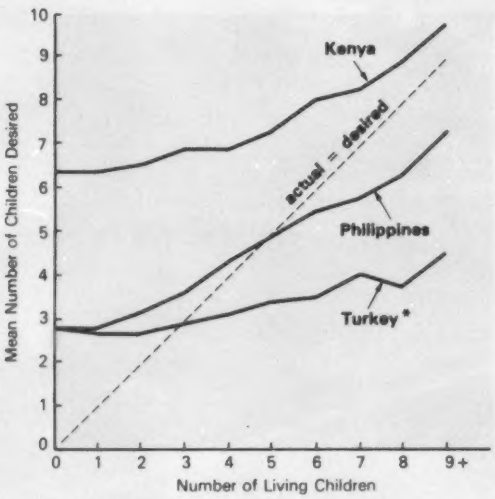
* Refers to 5 or more children desired.
Source: Appendix Table A-2

Kenya and the Dominican Republic, did women over 35 years of age express higher family size preferences than younger women with the same number of children. These figures can neither support nor question the hypothesis that younger women in these developing countries have adopted smaller family size norms because the effects of current fertility cannot be disentangled from current age.

Other demographic variables which influence family size preferences are the age at first marriage and the duration of the marriage, neither of which will be dealt with in this report. These factors are closely associated with both current age and the number of living children and tend to show the same relationship with desired family size. Generally, women who marry young will have had a longer duration of marriage and have borne more children than other women of the same age. Their desired family size tends to be larger also. As with current age, it is not possible to separate the individual effects of these variables using published data.

The strong association of the number of living children with the number desired is fuel for the frequent claim that when respondents are asked for the number of children they consider best for themselves, they merely state the number they actually have.[13] If this criticism is true, it means that desired

Figure 3. Mean Number of Children Desired by Number of Living Children, Ever-married Women: Selected WFS Countries



*Refers to currently married women only.
Source: Appendix Table A-4

family size cannot signal changing attitudes about the appropriate size for a family nor can it be expected to be useful in predicting future fertility. However, published WFS findings from 11 countries show that most women do not report their actual number of children as exactly the number they desire, although this is more common in some countries such as Indonesia, Kenya, and Jordan (see Appendix Table A-3). Previous research in Thailand has shown that while it may occur, rationalization does not invalidate the meaningfulness of the measure.[14]

Background Characteristics

Other factors affecting the preferred family size are socioeconomic and ethnic differentials among groups of women. Such factors are of particular interest because of the rapid and often profound socioeconomic changes which accompany the development process. The preference for small families is encouraged or affected by a wide range of social and economic forces that are involved in that vague but far-reaching concept, modernization. It would follow that within countries women who are in social sectors with the greatest exposure to modern ideas would express the smallest family size preference. Several studies using WFS data have found that rural women and less educated women want more children than their more educated and urban counterparts, but the differences have not been substantial. Also, when considering husband's occupation, another measure of the socioeconomic environment in which women are operating, higher status, professional, and non-agricultural jobs in general are associated with lower desired family size. However, results are not consistent for all countries.[15]

The WFS First Country Reports permit an analysis of the mean number of children desired by education, place of residence, and, for some countries, husband's occupation. These background variables are examined by number of living children.

Residence. Lower family size preferences would be expected in urban areas than in the countryside because urban women have a greater exposure to modernizing forces such as education, the media, and a cash economy which might encourage small families and also raise aspirations for consumer goods. They also may feel their situations are constrained by scarce housing and employment uncertainties.

In 17 of the WFS countries, the mean number of children desired among urban women is 0.5 to 1.5 lower than for rural women. Most of this difference is accounted for by the difference in the number of living children, as revealed by the adjusted figures in Table 2. This naturally occurs because, whether a consequence or an explanation of lower desired numbers of children, fertility is lower in urban areas. However, in Mexico, Malaysia, and Turkey urban women want fewer children than rural women even after adjustments are made for differences in current family size. In Kenya, Jordan, and Venezuela, urban-rural differences are greatest. In rural areas, the adjusted mean number of children desired is one more than in urban areas.

Table 2. Mean Total Number of Children Desired by Urban/Rural Residence, Currently Married Women: WFS Countries*

COUNTRY	RESIDENCE		Difference	Adjusted**	
	Urban	Rural	(R-U)	Urban	Rural
AFRICA					
Kenya	6.1	7.4	1.3	6.3	7.3
	(565)	(4,102)			
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC					
Bangladesh	4.0	4.1	0.1	4.0	4.3
	(343)	(3,563)			
Fiji	3.9	4.3	0.4	4.0	4.2
	(1,425)	(2,528)			
Indonesia	4.3	4.2	−0.1	4.5	4.6
	(1,204)	(6,262)			
Jordan	6.0	7.1	1.1	5.3	6.5
	(2,423)	(1,035)			
Korea, Rep. of	3.0	3.6	0.6	3.1	3.5
	(2,999)	(2,002)			
Malaysia	4.0	4.6	0.6	3.9	4.5
	(1,803)	(3,944)			
Pakistan	3.9	4.3	0.4	3.9	4.3
	(1,201)	(3,323)			
Philippines	4.0	4.7	0.7	4.0	4.2
	(2,830)	(6,023)			
Sri Lanka	3.5	4.0	0.5	3.5	3.8
	(1,136)	(5,011)			
Thailand	3.4	3.7	0.3	3.7	3.7
	(472)	(2,889)			
Turkey	2.8	3.3	0.5	2.9	3.4
	(2,057)	(1,913)			
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN					
Colombia	3.9	4.5	0.6	3.9	4.1
	(1,782)	(1,024)			
Costa Rica	4.1	5.3	1.2	4.3	4.8
	(1,350)	(1,334)			
Dominican Republic	4.4	5.1	0.7	4.5	4.8
	(841)	(923)			
Guyana	4.3	4.9	0.6	4.5	4.5
	(1,140)	(2,026)			
Jamaica	3.7	4.6	0.9	3.9	4.4
	(1,107)	(1,180)			
Mexico	4.2	4.9	0.7	4.1	4.7
	(3,193)	(2,318)			
Panama	4.0	4.6	0.6	4.2	4.0
	(1,461)	(1,259)			
Paraguay	4.9	5.8	0.9	5.2	5.3
	(1,123)	(1,487)			
Peru***	3.6	4.3	0.7	3.9	4.4
	(11,414)	(6,037)			
Venezuela	4.1	5.0	0.9	4.2	4.5
	(1,847)	(406)			

* Not available for Nepal.

** Adjusted for the number of living children using Fiji as the standard.

*** Sample sizes are weighted.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.3.

Table 3. Mean Total Number of Children Desired by Level of Education, Currently Married Women: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	EDUCATIONAL LEVEL							
				Difference		Adjusted*		Difference
	None	Primary	Secondary +	None-Secondary +	None	Primary	Secondary +	None-Secondary +
AFRICA								
Kenya	7.8	6.8	5.6	2.2	7.6	6.7	6.0	1.6
	(2,342)	(2,027)	(291)					
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC								
Bangladesh	4.2	3.9	3.9	0.3	4.3	4.0	4.1	0.2
	(2,852)	(808)	(239)					
Fiji	4.8	4.2	3.1	1.7	4.1	4.2	3.9	0.2
	(739)	(2,698)	(532)					
Indonesia	4.4	4.1	3.9	0.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	0.2
	(3,415)	(3,639)	(386)					
Jordan	7.0	5.3	4.1	2.9	6.2	5.2	3.9	1.3
	(2,340)	(689)	(430)					
Korea, Rep. of	3.8	3.3	2.7	1.1	3.6	3.3	2.8	0.8
	(965)	(2,536)	(1,491)					
Malaysia	5.1	4.3	3.6	1.5	4.5	4.3	3.8	0.7
	(1,064)	(2,536)	(739)					
Nepal	4.0	3.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(5,218)	(229)	—					
Pakistan	4.3	3.7	3.2	1.1	4.3	3.7	3.3	1.0
	(4,029)	(309)	(186)					
Philippines	5.7	5.0	4.1	1.6	4.9	4.2	4.0	0.9
	(506)	(2,138)	(6,209)					
Sri Lanka	4.6	4.0	3.2	1.4	4.0	3.8	3.6	0.4
	(1,293)	(2,401)	(2,459)					
Thailand	4.1	3.7	3.1	1.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	0.1
	(579)	(2,524)	(259)					
Turkey	3.3	2.6	2.4	0.9	3.3	2.7	2.0	0.7
	(2,368)	(1,269)	(333)					
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN								
Colombia	4.9	4.1	3.4	1.5	4.3	3.9	3.7	0.6
	(560)	(1,662)	(579)					
Costa Rica	6.1	4.7	3.6	2.5	4.8	4.6	4.3	0.5
	(542)	(1,448)	(694)					
Dominican Republic	5.4	4.8	4.0	1.4	5.2	4.7	4.6	0.6
	(126)	(1,461)	(177)					
Guyana	5.3	5.1	3.9	1.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	−0.2
	(525)	(1,491)	(1,167)					
Jamaica	5.1	4.3	3.3	1.8	4.5	4.2	3.9	0.6
	(312)	(1,440)	(535)					
Mexico	5.2	4.6	3.4	1.8	4.8	4.4	3.8	1.0
	(1,166)	(3,395)	(949)					
Panama	5.1	4.5	3.7	1.4	4.5	4.2	4.0	0.5
	(578)	(1,078)	(1,068)					
Paraguay	6.4	5.4	4.0	2.4	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.1
	(605)	(1,454)	(551)					
Peru	4.4	3.6	3.3	1.1	4.1	3.8	3.5	0.6
	(1,167)	(880)	(1,187)					
Venezuela	5.4	4.3	3.4	2.0	4.5	4.3	3.1	1.4
	(359)	(1,262)	(632)					

* Adjusted for the effects of the number of living children using Fiji as the standard.

— Data not available.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.3.

Table 4. Mean Total Number of Children Desired by Occupation of Husband, Currently Married Women with Three Living Children (Including Current Pregnancy): Selected WFS Countries

OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND	ASIA AND THE PACIFIC									
	Bangla-desh	Fiji	Indo-nesia	Jordan	Korea, Rep. of	Malay-sia	Paki-stan	Philip-pines	Sri Lanka	Thai-land
Professional*	4.0	3.4	3.8	4.6	3.0	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3
Skilled Manual	3.8	3.5	4.1	5.8	3.0	4.3	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.2
Unskilled Manual	—	3.5	4.7	4.9	3.0	4.5	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.1
Sales/Service	3.7	3.6	4.2	6.0	3.1	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.5
Agriculture	3.9	3.7	4.0	5.1	3.4	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.7

OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
	Colom-bia	Dominican Republic	Mexico	Panama
Professional*	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.6
Skilled Manual	3.7	4.2	4.0	3.7
Unskilled Manual	3.9	4.7	4.0	3.8
Sales/Service	3.4	4.5	3.8	4.0
Agriculture	4.2	4.4	4.6	3.8

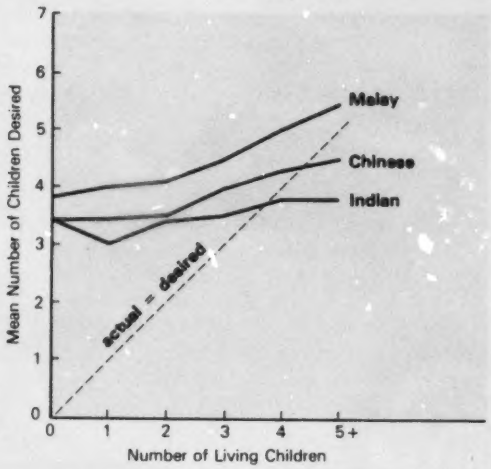
* Professional includes also managerial, technical, and clerical.
— Data not available.
Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.3.

Education. Except in Indonesia and Bangladesh, for women with at least a secondary education the mean number of children desired is 1.0 to 2.5 less than for women with a minimal or no education (see Table 3). As with residence, this gap is largely accounted for by the differences in the number of living children. More educated women tend to be younger and to have fewer children than their less educated counterparts. However, in Kenya, Jordan, Pakistan, Mexico, and Venezuela, women in the highest educational category wanted about one child less than those in the lowest category, even accounting for differences in fertility. In ten other countries, the mean number desired among the most educated women was between 0.5 and 0.9 lower than for the least educated.

Husband's Occupation. The fertility desires of women according to their husband or partner's occupation can be ascertained for 14 countries. In Table 4 five occupational classifications have been somewhat arbitrarily arranged in order of the assumed degree of exposure to modern ways of life. In all but three of the countries the women associated through their husbands with professional, managerial, technical, or clerical occupations desired on average the smallest family sizes. Typically agricultural families had desired the largest families, but farming does not invariably produce a setting where large families are valued highly. In the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, and Indonesia wives of unskilled manual workers had the highest mean number of desired children, and in Jordan and Panama the highest desired number was reported by those in sales and service occupations.

In Jordan occupational designations are the more successful in identifying different family size norms, than in other countries. Professionals desire 1.4 fewer children than those involved in sales and service. There is almost a one child difference from the largest to the smallest mean desired family size in Pakistan, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Indonesia. In the remaining countries the occupational differences are fewer.

Figure 4. Mean Number of Children Desired by Number of Living Children and Ethnic Origin, Currently Married Women: Malaysia



Source: Appendix Table A-5 (WFS First Country Report, Malaysia, Table 3.4.6. B)

Ethnic and Religious Differences. Among the ascribed characteristics which are associated with family size norms are ethnic background and religious affiliation. These relationships are detailed for eight countries in Appendix Table A-5. In many of these countries ethnicity and religion are practically synonomous, and they have a bearing on acquired characteristics such as education, residence, and occupation. In Malaysia, for example, the Malays are overwhelmingly Moslem, rural, and have less education than the ethnic Chinese, who are primarily Buddhists, or the Indians, mainly Hindu. The three groups also differ in their desired family size (see Figure 4); the Malays desire the largest families and the Indians the smallest. Ethnicity undoubtedly contributes to the large differentials in desired family size by residence and education cited earlier for Malaysia.

Generally, Moslem countries and Moslem groups within countries have a higher desired family size than other ethnic groups. In Jordan, Moslem women want at least one child more than Catholic and "others," and this is consistent for each level of actual family size. In the Philippines, the Moslem minority wants about two more children than other Filipinos, who are primarily of Catholic and other Christian religions. In Kenya, Moslem women desire about one more child than the Christian majority, but about one less than women with no religious affiliation. In Sri Lanka and Fiji, however, there are no significant differences between Moslems and the other major religious groups in those countries. In Sri Lanka, only the Christian minority differed from the other groups; the mean was between 0.3 and 0.4 lower than among the Buddhists, Hindus, and Moslems even after adjusting for differences in the number of living children.

Other countries for which fertility preference data are available by ethnicity or religion failed to show great differences in desired family size by these background variables, with the exception of Guyana. The mean among Guyanese women of African origin was 0.5 higher than among those of Indian origin, after adjusting for the number of living children. Again, these ethnic effects carry over into socioeconomic characteristics: the rural population in Guyana consists predominantly of ethnic Indians.

In Panama and Korea, religious differences between Catholics and non-Catholics in the first case and between women with no religion, Buddhists and Christians in the second case were not large. The mean number of children desired by Christians in Korea was 0.3 less than among the other religious groups, but there were virtually no differences between Catholics and others in Panama, after adjusting for the number of living children.

Excess Fertility

One of the most important reasons for studying desired family size is for the insights it can give into women's opinions about their own reproductive behavior. It seems reasonable to argue, for example, that a woman who has a large family, but claims that if she were able to choose, her preference would be for a small family, is somewhat dissatisfied with the current situation. This does not mean she did not want some of her children at the time she had them, but it may mean her present attitudes do not conform to her past behavior. "Excess fertility" is said to exist when the number of living children is greater than the desired number of children.

Table 5. Mean Number of Living Children and Mean Total Number of Children Desired by Ever-married Women Aged 40-44 Years: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	Mean Number of Living Children	Mean Number of Children Desired	Difference
AFRICA			
Kenya	6.1	8.1	−2.0
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC			
Bangladesh	5.1	4.7	0.4
Indonesia*	4.1	5.0	−0.9
Jordan	7.2	7.4	−0.2
Korea, Rep. of	4.5	3.6	0.9
Malaysia	5.5	4.6	0.9
Nepal	3.8	4.2	−0.4
Pakistan	5.0	4.4	0.6
Philippines	5.9	5.2	0.7
Sri Lanka	4.9	4.4	0.5
Thailand	5.1	4.1	1.0
Turkey	4.5	3.2	1.3
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Colombia	5.6	4.9	0.7
Costa Rica	6.0	6.1	−0.1
Dominican Republic	5.5	5.6	−0.1
Guyana	5.7	5.8	−0.1
Jamaica	4.9	4.8	0.1
Mexico	6.0	5.2	0.8
Panama	5.5	5.1	0.4
Paraguay	5.5	6.5	−1.0
Peru	5.2	4.4	0.8
Venezuela	4.9	4.9	0.0

* Refers to currently married women only.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Tables 2.3.1B and 3.3.1B except Fiji (F1, F2, G17, and G18), Indonesia (3.1.2A), and Thailand (3.4.2A).

One method for estimating the extent of excess fertility is to compare stated fertility desires with actual family size among women who are at the end of their childbearing years. Table 5 shows these two measures and their differences for women 40 to 44 years of age. In 12 of the 22 countries included the differential between desired and actual fertility is 0.5 or more. The greatest excess fertility was in Thailand and Turkey where women had an average 1.0 and 1.3 more children respectively than they said they wanted. In Kenya, Indonesia, and Paraguay, in contrast, women reported they had 0.9 to 2.0 children less than they would have preferred resulting in deficit fertility.

While some of the women may be rationalizing the number of desired children to correspond at least approximately to the number of children they already have, the fact remains that in about one-half of the countries surveyed they are admitting to some degree of dissatisfaction with their completed family size. Because the survey can capture their situation at one point in time, in the later years of their reproductive lives, it is not possible to ascertain whether their family size preferences are the same as they were earlier in their marriage or whether, with hindsight, they wished they had borne fewer children. Another possibility is that social norms about family size in general are shifting downward.

In the countries reporting neither excess or deficit fertility, women aged 40 to 44 years are presumably satisfied with their family sizes—ranging from an average of 3.8 for Nepal to 7.2 for Jordan. If younger women have such large families the implications for future population growth are staggering. At current fertility rates, Jordan's population will double in only 21 years, Nepal's in 29 years.[16]

Desire for No More Children

Another measure of family size preferences with more immediate implications for the fertility rate is the desire for no more children. The wish to cease childbearing is theoretically a consequence of achieving a preferred number of children, or of a situation which has prompted a downward revision of earlier preferences. In either case the number of children which signals the stopping point may be a personal preference based on the experience and expectations of an individual couple rather than an ideal number preferred under the best of circumstances.

The most important determinant of the desire for no more children is obviously the number of offspring already born, although a woman's family size at the time of the survey may have already surpassed her preferred stopping point. But other factors play an important part in decisions about continuing childbearing. Age, health, or financial situation may prompt women to want to avoid further pregnancies even if they have not reached their desired number. Many women live in a cultural climate which is oblivious to inconsistencies between stated family size desires and behavior. For these women, their statement that they want more children when they have already exceeded their preferred family size may not be viewed as unreasonable.

Table 6. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women* Who Want No More Children by Number of Living Children: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN										
AFRICA	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total
Kenya	1.5	0.8	3.6	7.1	16.1	18.4	25.4	37.1	45.6	56.3	16.7
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC											
Bangladesh[a]	13.3	42.5	56.4	66.4	76.7	84.5	90.3	92.4	90.6	96.0	60.8
Fiji	2.1	6.7	34.0	48.5	66.6	82.6[b]	—	—	—	—	49.5
Indonesia	4.0	9.1	28.5	45.0	57.4	68.3	77.7	87.1	84.1	93.9	38.8
Jordan[c]	4.2	4.5	15.2	24.5	38.3	47.2	54.5	68.4	69.3	78.3	41.7
Korea, Rep. of	12.5	13.0	65.6	85.8	92.0	95.3	96.2	99.1	100.0	(100.0)	71.6
Malaysia	0.4	3.5	21.4	31.1	51.9	78.3[b]	—	—	—	—	42.7
Nepal	1.3	5.2	23.4	39.4	58.0	66.3	80.5	88.0	88.9	(92.9)	29.6
Pakistan	2.0	7.0	30.0	48.0	69.0	87.3[b]	—	—	—	—	49.0
Philippines	0.7	6.9	32.6	51.2	68.2	73.3	76.4	86.3	81.4	84.7	54.3
Sri Lanka	2.2	14.2	49.6	72.7	86.9	92.5[b]	—	—	—	—	61.4
Thailand	5.4	18.7	46.1	64.1	81.3	90.4	90.5	95.9	92.9	97.3	56.9
Turkey	0.8	10.0	51.5	73.4	82.6	84.9	86.4	84.8	83.1	92.6	57.1
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN											
Colombia	9.0	19.0	52.0	65.0	79.0	78.0	85.0	93.0	89.0	90.0	61.0
Costa Rica	5.3	13.0	35.2	58.9	68.4	74.7	77.8	77.3	86.7	85.0	52.0
Dominican Republic	3.1	10.5	33.3	54.0	61.6	72.1[b]	—	—	—	—	44.7
Guyana	7.7	15.8	35.8	51.8	59.8	78.0	84.6	84.4	86.5	89.5	51.1
Jamaica	2.9	21.3	39.0	47.5	54.0	60.9	58.3	71.1	54.4	69.9	41.5
Mexico	9.8	10.0	42.4	53.5	69.4	77.2	81.6	86.3	89.0	91.1	57.1
Panama	7.7	12.0	42.0	72.6	81.7	85.1	86.7	86.4	86.6	88.6	63.0
Paraguay	1.4	4.9	21.1	31.0	41.2	46.0	52.7	55.3	67.3	73.2	32.3
Peru	6.3	19.9	48.2	62.2	74.2	80.1	80.7	87.2	88.1	94.7	61.4
Venezuela	8.9	10.0	41.1	64.1	74.2	85.5	84.5	91.2	82.9	88.9	55.0

* Includes women in union who are fecund, sterilized, whose husbands are sterilized, or who are currently pregnant.

[a] In Bangladesh, women were asked whether they wanted another child "soon."

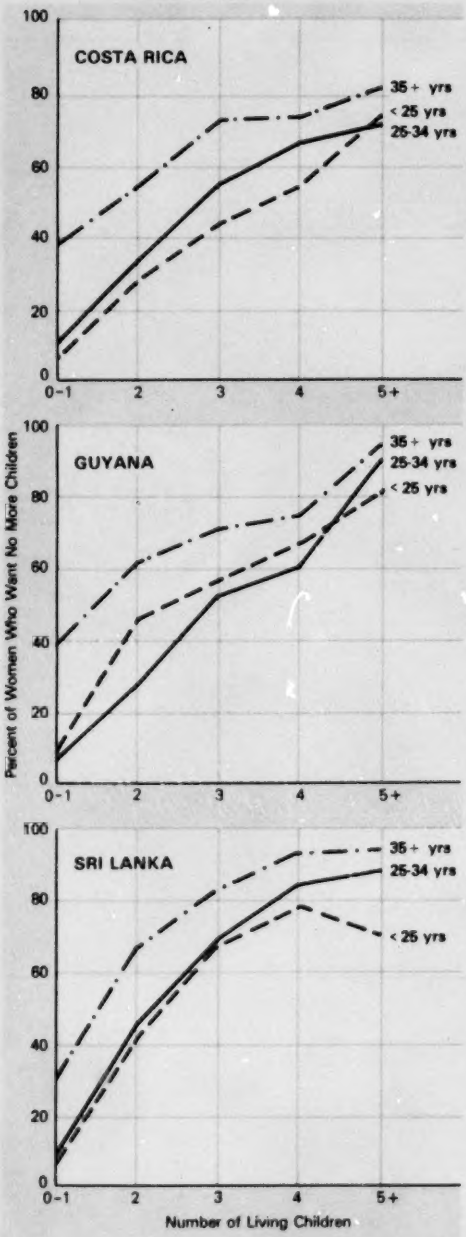
[b] Five or more children.

[c] Sterilized women were apparently excluded from the base population.

( ) Twenty or fewer cases.

Sources: Philippines, Jordan, Turkey, Venezuela, Jamaica, Paraguay, Guyana, and Kenya: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.1.1. All Other Countries: United Nations, 1981, Table 16, p. 44.

Figure 5. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Want No More Children by Number of Living Children and Age: Selected WFS Countries



Source: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.1.

Number of Living Children and Age of Mother

As would be expected, the percentage of women who want no more children increases directly with the number of children already born. A sharp increase occurs in most countries after two to three children, as shown in Table 6.

The differences among countries reflects their respective levels of preferred family size. After three children, over half the women in all the Latin American countries, except Jamaica and Paraguay, wanted to stop childbearing. Among the Asian countries, where family size preferences are generally higher, the percentage of women with three children who want to cease childbearing ranged from 86 percent in Korea to 25 percent in Jordan. However, in six of the 11 Asian countries, 50 percent or more of the women with three children wanted no more.

Kenya, where only 17 percent of the women want no more children, is a clear exception. While the desire to stop childbearing increases with age, the proportion who want no more children only reaches 50 percent among women with nine or more living children.

The percentage of women without children who say they want no children is as high as 13 percent in Korea and 10 percent in Mexico. This apparently contradicts family size preferences reported earlier, (i.e., less than two percent of women in any of the survey countries listed zero as their desired family size) (see Appendix Table A-2). These two measures, however, reflect different aspects of the decision-making process involved in forming families.

The percent of women wanting no more children also increases with age. Older women will have had time to have more children and the more children a woman has, the more likely she will have borne as many as she wants.

In most countries, the percentages of women wanting no more children increases similarly by number of children for each broad age group. This relationship is presented in a graph for selected countries in Figure 5. Again, this reflects the findings of the previous section, that the family size preferences are fairly constant among age groups. However, at each family size, the older age groups are more likely to want to stop childbearing. This is particularly noticeable among women 35 years or older. Among the countries surveyed, at least 59 percent of the women 45 years or older with three living children wanted no more children. In ten of the countries,* at least 75 percent wanted no more.[17]

*Excluding countries where the number of women 45 years or older who had three living children was less than 20.

Table 7. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women with Three Living Children Who Want No More Children by Urban/Rural Residence and Level of Education: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	RESIDENCE		EDUCATIONAL LEVEL		
	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary*
AFRICA					
Kenya	12.6	6.4	5.5	7.4	14.3
	(82)	(624)	(334)	(316)	(60)
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC					
Bangladesh	74	66	64	73	68
	(57)	(708)	(587)	(147)	(30)
Fiji	59	42	55	46	48
	(262)	(397)	(91)	(236)	(333)
Indonesia	43	45	51	37	48
	(163)	(827)	(408)	(372)	(210)
Jordan	40	10	16	22	22
	(234)	(118)	(182)	(106)	(64)
Korea, Rep. of	90	79	87	82	91
	(585)	(357)	(97)	(515)	(330)
Malaysia	49	27	32	29	45
	(156)	(660)	(206)	(470)	(106)
Nepal	—	—	39	51	*
	—	—	(760)	(35)	(1)
Pakistan	53	47	47	59	68
	—	—	—	—	—
Philippines	62	47	41	45	53
	(475)	(800)	(37)	(33)	(1,005)
Sri Lanka	76	71	66	73	75
	(176)	(611)	(138)	(319)	(399)
Thailand	56	65	54	66	*
	(55)	(343)	(63)	(319)	(16)
Turkey	81	65	62	80	90
	(395)	(318)	(293)	(371)	(49)
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN					
Colombia	67	59	53	68	63
	(286)	(134)	(66)	(256)	(96)
Costa Rica	64	52	*	55	69
	(219)	(163)	(14)	(260)	(108)
Dominican Republic	55	53	*	53	62
	(109)	(102)	(16)	(169)	(26)
Guyana	48	55	56	45	52
	(158)	(255)	(257)	(155)	(412)
Jamaica	54	40	44	59	48
	(160)	(124)	(216)	(68)	(284)
Mexico**	58	47	48	51	65
	(443)	(269)	(101)	(469)	(142)
Panama	76	71	75	67	78
	(148)	(272)	(28)	(195)	(197)
Paraguay	35	27	29	28	39
	(165)	(183)	(58)	(198)	(92)
Peru	69	57	58	60	69
	—	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	66	53	65	63	66
	(292)	(62)	(46)	(218)	(90)

* Percentage not shown where base is less than 20 women.

** Rural = localities with less than 2,500 inhabitants; urban = all other locations.

— Data not available.

Sources: Kenya, Jordan, Philippines, Turkey, Guyana, Paraguay, and Venezuela: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.1.3. All Other Countries: United Nations, 1981, Table 18, pp. 51-52.

Thus, in most countries, number of living children alone does not determine desire for more children. While attainment of the preferred family size over the woman's reproductive life span may be a goal, this is apparently adjusted to take into account the woman's actual situation.

Several studies have shown that, after financial considerations, the primary reasons couples give for not wanting any more children are maternal health and the general physical and emotional strains associated with rearing children.[18] Both these considerations would look larger in importance as age increases. And, while older couples might be more likely to have higher incomes than young couples, they may be less optimistic about the probability of their financial resources expanding to cover the extra expenses of more children.

Background Characteristics

The overall percent of women who want no more children will be higher among populations and subpopulations that desire fewer children because the lower the total number of children wanted, the greater the percentage of women at a given age who will already have achieved that number. Thus it is not surprising that the greatest percentages of women who want no more children are found in urban areas and among women with higher educational attainment—the same sub-populations with lower family size preferences.

A recent study of WFS data from eight countries[19] found that the desire for more children, after controlling for age and parity did decrease among the more educated women, with the exception of Thailand and Malaysia. In a more detailed analysis of WFS data from Panama, Sri Lanka, and Peru, United Nation's researchers[20] found that while education was related to the desire for more children, it was much less important than the duration of marriage and the number and sex of living children. The United Nations' study also reports that the occupation of the husband, the place of residence, and the work history of the wife are related to the desire for more children. Their results, along with similar data for eight additional WFS countries, are shown in Table 7.

As with the desired family size, there were clear differences among ethnic and religious groups in the wish to limit childbearing and in a similar direction (see Appendix Table A-7).

Sex Composition of Children

In addition to preferences as to the number of children couples want, they may feel it important to have at least one son or daughter or to have children of both sexes. Cultural or personal biases for a specific sex or combination of sexes among children might encourage couples to continue having children until their goal is achieved, even if it means having more children than they consider best for their situation. However, it can be argued that an unfavorable sex ratio could encourage couples to stop having children if they perceive their current family of, for example, all girls, as evidence that additional births would bring more of the same. If a family of all girls is considered to be a financial burden or a social embarrassment, couples may be unwilling to risk an additional birth even if it means a smaller completed family than they would have preferred.[21]

The historical preference for sons in many cultures is well known. Male children carry on the family name and often are expected to provide economic assistance while daughters are absorbed into their husband's family after marriage. This preference continues in some countries, particularly in rural areas[22] and among certain religious groups like Moslems and Hindus. In some societies, women may want daughters and their husbands, sons.[23] There is also a strong belief that a balance of sexes among siblings is the ideal situation for healthy psychological development.

Table 8 shows the percentage of women who want no more children by the number of living sons. In all the predominately Moslem countries except Indonesia (i.e., Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, and Turkey), there is a clear son preference, but the preference appears strongest in Nepal and Korea, two non-Islamic countries with very different levels of fertility and family size preferences. In Korea, where other studies have confirmed a strong preference for sons,[24] the percentage of women with three children who want no more children jumps from 47 to 82 percent with one son, and up to 96 percent with two sons.

But even in some of the countries with a clear son preference, there appears to be an even greater value placed on having children of both sexes (see Figure 6). In Turkey, for example, while the percentage of women who want no more children ranges from 44 to 60 percent depending upon whether they have all daughters or all sons. Among Turkish women with at least one child of each sex between 75 and 82 percent want no more children.

*Table 8. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women with Two or Three Living Children Who Want No More Children by Number of Living Children and Sons: WFS Countries**

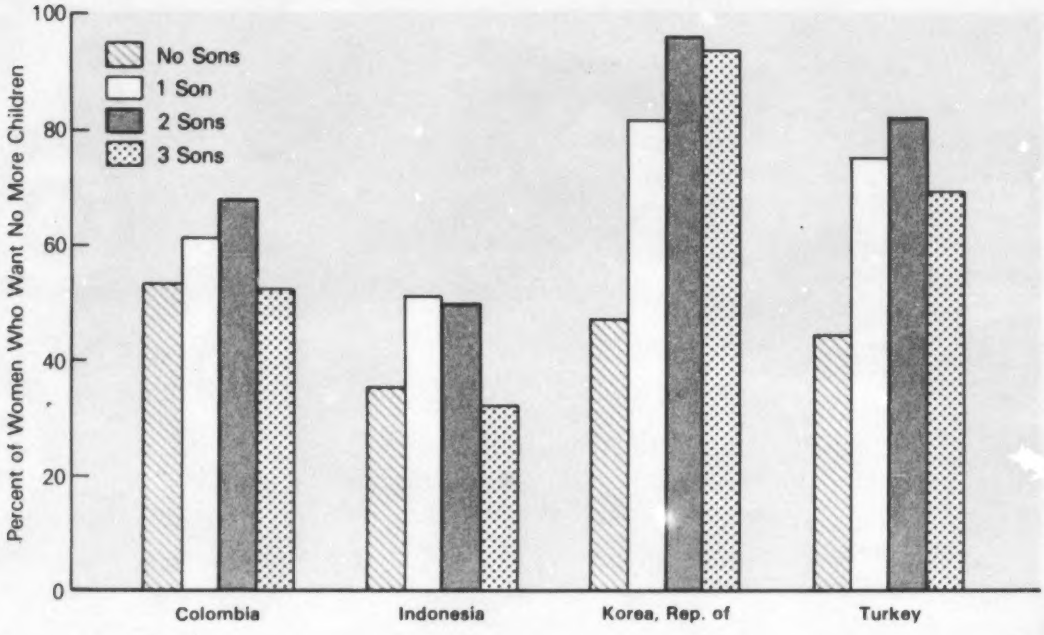
COUNTRY		NUMBER OF CHILDREN						
		Two Children Number of Sons			Three Children Number of Sons			
		0	1	2	0	1	2	3
AFRICA								
Kenya	Percent	6	3	4	2	9	7	8
	(Number)	(126)	(301)	(143)	(72)	(209)	(220)	(67)
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC								
Bangladesh	Percent	50	67	69	56	67	80	70
	(Number)	(147)	(358)	(187)	(94)	(216)	(264)	(79)
Fiji	Percent	23	36	30	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(101)	(311)	(138)	—	—	—	—
Indonesia	Percent	32	35	18	35	51	50	32
	(Number)	(252)	(556)	(229)	(90)	(342)	(310)	(105)
Jordan	Percent	26	49	32	57	61	73	40
	(Number)	(94)	(178)	(82)	(28)	(87)	(139)	(43)
Korea, Rep. of	Percent	36	71	77	47	82	96	94
	(Number)	(112)	(361)	(244)	(60)	(252)	(402)	(128)
Malaysia	Percent	15	25	17	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(144)	(371)	(180)	—	—	—	—
Nepal	Percent	10	27	33	10	36	54	42
	(Number)	(170)	(368)	(217)	(77)	(255)	(259)	(103)
Pakistan	Percent	12	35	44	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(109)	(259)	(146)	—	—	—	—
Philippines	Percent	22	44	23	35	53	58	40
	(Number)	(260)	(529)	(266)	(101)	(367)	(456)	(150)
Sri Lanka	Percent	39	60	41	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(176)	(393)	(205)	—	—	—	—
Thailand	Percent	33	51	42	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(93)	(230)	(118)	—	—	—	—
Turkey	Percent	33	61	46	44	75	82	69
	(Number)	(143)	(380)	(186)	(69)	(229)	(250)	(78)
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN								
Colombia	Percent	45	53	49	53	61	68	52
	(Number)	(95)	(206)	(106)	(38)	(139)	(145)	(33)
Costa Rica	Percent	38	35	32	47	59	58	55
	(Number)	(94)	(248)	(117)	(40)	(130)	(137)	(42)
Dominican Republic	Percent	30	22	28	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(47)	(83)	(53)	—	—	—	—
Mexico	Percent	32	41	47	48	48	62	49
	(Number)	(139)	(339)	(176)	(69)	(224)	(239)	(75)
Panama	Percent	34	49	34	—	—	—	—
	(Number)	(76)	(210)	(109)	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	Percent	19	22	20	27	31	35	27
	(Number)	(84)	(205)	(98)	(26)	(121)	(109)	(34)
Peru	Percent	46	50	42	56	63	67	57
	(Number)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	Percent	26	48	32	57	61	73	40
	(Number)	(94)	(178)	(82)	(28)	(87)	(139)	(43)

* Not available for Jamaica and Guyana.

— Data not available.

Sources: Philippines, Kenya, Turkey, Venezuela, Jordan, and Paraguay: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.4.1. All Other Countries: United Nations, 1981, Table 24, pp. 68-69.

Figure 6. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women with Three Children Who Want No More Children by Number of Living Sons: Selected WFS Countries



Source: Table 8

In all of the Latin American countries, women with at least one child of each sex are most likely to want to stop having children, suggesting a preference for a balanced sex composition. In Venezuela and, to a lesser extent, Costa Rica, while an equal sex ratio is most valued, there is a slight preference for families with all daughters over those with only sons.

The data show that the sex composition of a family does have an effect on plans for future births in some countries and may account for some of the "excess" fertility experienced. But overall, the effect does not appear to be large, partly because the probability of having a child of the desired sex is about 50 percent, and is even a little better for having a son.* Among the 13 countries with sex composition data for three child families, 86 to 93 percent of the women had at least one son, and 74 to 80 percent had a child of each sex. Thus, the vast majority of women will have satisfied either a son preference or a sex balance preference by the time they have three children.

*About 105 males are born for every 100 females.

Table 9. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Know of an Efficient Contraceptive Method by Desire for More Children: WFS Countries***

COUNTRY	Want More		Want No More		Undecided	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
AFRICA						
Kenya	87.7	3,484	93.9	862	82.8	794
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Bangladesh	78.2	1,647	84.4	3,253	67.7	444
Indonesia	77.6	3,330	86.5	2,542	67.2	684
Jordan	95.5	1,671	98.6	1,280	97.2	117
Malaysia	88.6	2,752	95.3	2,100	81.9	68
Nepal	15.6	2,995	31.8	1,447	20.6	446
Pakistan	71.6	2,251	81.4	1,827	—	—
Philippines	92.9	2,897	97.1	4,284	88.2	707
Sri Lanka	89.9	1,778	95.0	3,262	88.3	276
Thailand	95.0	1,052	97.8	1,482	98.9	75
Turkey	82.2	1,466	91.3	2,135	81.2	127
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN						
Colombia	94.6	966	96.3	1,640	70.9	61
Costa Rica	99.6	1,106	99.8	1,273	99.9	67
Dominican Republic	96.2	718	98.4	651	94.9	87
Guyana	94.8	1,084	96.0	1,554	94.7	209
Jamaica	98.9	870	98.2	884	97.5	174
Mexico	88.7	2,094	91.7	2,784	62.0	49
Panama	98.1	889	99.0	1,591	89.5	45
Paraguay	95.3	1,486	95.9	766	95.5	120
Peru	79.6	5,232	81.7	9,949	57.2	1,025
Venezuela	97.1	897	97.9	1,212	94.4	96

* Percents were adjusted using the age distribution for Fiji.

** Not available for Fiji or the Republic of Korea.

— Data not available.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 5.1.1 except for Indonesia (1.5.1).

Desire for More Children

Knowledge of Contraception

The knowledge of contraceptive methods may be a factor in whether a woman will decide to limit childbearing.[25] If a woman does not know effective contraceptive means exist, or how to obtain them, she may not believe she has a choice about future childbearing. On the other hand, women who decide they want to avoid having more children may seek out the information and means to do so, thus the direction of causality is not clear.

In most WFS countries, knowledge of an efficient contraceptive method was very high.[26] However, as Table 9 shows, knowledge is highest among women who want no more children and is generally lowest for women who are undecided about future births. The difference in contraceptive knowledge by desire for additional children is minimal in most countries, especially where over 90 percent of the women know an efficient method, but there are some exceptions. The most striking is Indonesia where 86.5 percent of the women who say they want no more children know of an efficient method compared to 77.6 percent of women who want more children and only 67.2 percent of women are "undecided." In Peru, only 57.2 percent of the undecided women knew of an efficient method, while among all other women about 80 percent knew about efficient family planning methods.

The idea of family limitation may have less salience for women who are not aware of effective methods of birth control. These women may have no reason to form an opinion about whether they

*Table 10. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Are Currently Using Contraception by Desire for Future Births and Background Variables: WFS Countries**

COUNTRY	RESIDENCE		EDUCATIONAL LEVEL		
	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary +
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC					
Bangladesh					
Want More Children	1.2	3.5	1.0	3.1	7.8
Want No More Children	11.1	28.0	9.4	19.5	37.6
Fiji					
Want More Children	28.1	36.8	24.0	29.3	40.8
Want No More Children	50.1	55.4	57.3	51.8	47.0
Jordan					
Want More Children	4.8	23.0	8.3	34.7	51.6
Want No More Children	16.6	46.8	29.1	55.6	62.0
Korea, Rep. of					
Want More Children	11.7	9.9	5.5	9.3	12.6
Want No More Children	38.0	46.5	40.8	42.0	50.6
Malaysia					
Want More Children	27.5	44.9	20.5	34.1	48.9
Want No More Children	42.0	63.2	35.4	52.3	67.0
Pakistan					
Want More Children	0.5	5.6	0.5	3.1	17.3
Want No More Children	13.0	38.9	18.2	27.1	59.9
Philippines					
Want More Children	22.8	37.0	3.8	16.1	32.2
Want No More Children	43.0	57.4	18.1	32.3	52.4
Sri Lanka					
Want More Children	18.3	20.0	4.7	13.5	25.9
Want No More Children	43.3	51.7	32.4	41.2	55.8
Thailand					
Want More Children	24.0	34.8	18.4	25.7	37.9
Want No More Children	35.6	64.2	45.0	47.1	52.7

(continued . . .)

wanted to stop childbearing, believing that it is a matter of chance or of divine will.

While a large majority of women in all the countries except Nepal knew of at least one efficient contraceptive method, the slightly lower knowledge among women who want more children and particularly among women who are undecided, suggests that lack of knowledge of efficient family planning methods could be a contributing factor in the desire for future births for some women. But the overall effect of contraceptive knowledge on the decision to stop childbearing appears to be small.

A related factor, of course, is the availability of contraceptives. In a study of the perceived availability of family planning services in five WFS countries, one researcher found that in Korea and Nepal, and to a lesser extent Colombia and Malaysia, knowledge of family planning outlets was higher among women who wanted no more children.[27] But this was not found in Costa Rica where the women who were planning additional births were somewhat more likely to know of a family planning outlet.

*Table 10. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Are Currently Using Contraception by Desire for Future Births and Background Variables: WFS Countries**

COUNTRY	RESIDENCE		EDUCATIONAL LEVEL		
	Urban	Rural	None	Primary	Secondary +
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN					
Colombia					
Want More Children	22.9	47.5	23.1	40.6	60.6
Want No More Children	31.7	58.3	32.3	54.8	69.2
Costa Rica					
Want More Children	31.1	—	46.8	62.9	69.0
Want No More Children	71.9	78.4	66.7	83.0	80.2
Dominican Republic					
Want More Children	14.8	29.2	0.6	20.4	49.4
Want No More Children	30.8	51.1	11.8	40.5	57.9
Guyana**					
Want More Children	17.3	27.4	14.0	17.3	25.9
Want No More Children	39.5	44.7	37.0	39.8	47.0
Jamaica**					
Want More Children	44.7	53.9	—	45.8	60.9
Want No More Children	34.7	46.8	—	40.0	46.1
Mexico					
Want More Children	18.6	46.7	11.8	30.1	56.4
Want No More Children	22.3	54.9	19.5	39.2	65.1
Panama					
Want More Children	31.7	46.7	27.6	35.4	51.8
Want No More Children	54.0	72.0	48.0	64.3	72.9
Paraguay					
Want More Children	26.9	52.4	18.2	36.6	57.0
Want No More Children	32.9	62.9	31.6	43.0	77.4
Peru**					
Want More Children	7.8	41.3	9.1	33.7	51.0
Want No More Children	15.4	49.3	19.5	45.8	64.6
Venezuela**					
Want More Children	23.2	47.8	20.7	41.9	53.3
Want No More Children	32.9	63.0	39.1	58.8	69.3

* Not available for Kenya, Indonesia, Nepal, and Turkey.
** None category in education refers to less than 4 years.
— Data not available.
Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 5.3.3.

Contraceptive Use

While the implementation of fertility preferences may be assessed by comparing desired family size with the actual number of children born, the implementation of the desire for no more births is more difficult to access. These survey data reflect only one point in time and cannot indicate whether the women will successfully avoid more pregnancies until the end of their reproductive lives. However, the data do provide a means of measuring the behavior directed towards this goal—current use of contraceptive methods.

Clearly, contraceptive use is not a definitive measure of the implementation of the desire to limit childbearing. Women who do want children in the future may use contraception for prolonging intervals between births. On the other hand, women who wish to cease childbearing may use methods other than contraception, such as abortion. Still, contraceptive use is a convenient indicator of action taken to avoid future births.

Implementation

This relationship between desire for more children and contraceptive use may also be studied to estimate the "unmet need" for family planning services. "Unmet need" usually refers to fecund women who say they want no more children yet are not using contraception. These women are considered by policymakers to constitute the group most urgently in need of family planning services. The percentages of women using contraception by their desire for more births and several background variables are shown in Table 10.

Except in three countries—Panama, Costa Rica, and Venezuela—less than one half of the "exposed"* women who want no more children are using contraceptives, indicating a low degree of overt implementation of their stated desire to prevent further births and a large "unmet" need for family planning services. In three countries, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, less than 15 percent of the women who wanted no more children reported taking any action to avoid pregnancy. In most of the other countries, only 30 to 48 percent of these women were using contraception.

To put these contraceptive prevalence rates in perspective, it is useful to compare the rates for women who want more children. With a few exceptions women who say they want no more children use family planning at uniformly higher rates than those who have not completed their families. Clearly, in most countries women who want no more children are attempting to implement their desire to cease childbearing within the context of the prevailing levels of contraceptive availability and acceptability. The exceptions are Fiji and Paraguay, where there were less than three percentage points difference in contraceptive use by desire for future births. In countries where overall contraceptive prevalence is very low, use levels by desire for more children appear to be wider ranging. However, it must be recognized that the type of contraceptive most easily available and most popular will affect these differentials. For example, sterilization is the primary method in some countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh and since it is used to terminate rather than space childbearing only women who want no more children would be among the users.

Bearing in mind that differences in contraceptive use between women who wish to terminate childbearing and women who may only want to delay the next birth reflect differences in the types of contraceptives prevalent in a country or region, it is possible to compare the "unmet need" among various sub-populations. In all countries, the percent of women wanting no more children who used contraception was lower in rural areas, indicating a greater "unmet need." In Fiji and Costa Rica, there was less than ten percent difference in the degree to which urban and rural women implement their desire to avoid pregnancy. The difference is 10 to 18 percent in Korea, Sri Lanka, and Guyana, but in each of the other countries, the "unmet need" is over 20 percent higher in rural areas.

The more educated the women, the more likely she is to take positive action to prevent further births. Only Fiji contradicts the finding: in Fiji contraceptive use among women wanting no more children is highest among those with no education and lowest among those with a secondary or higher education. In each of the other countries, although magnitudes vary widely, there is at least a 12 percent difference in use among women who want no more children in the lowest and highest educational group.

Comparing these differentials by education and residence with differentials among women who do want more children, it is interesting to note that while there is a similar pattern or use, the differentials are almost invariably greater among the women who want more children. This may be explained by the greater motivation to use contraception among women wishing to terminate childbearing, within each residence and education group.

Summary

The vast majority of WFS respondents in the 23 countries in this report were able to state the number of children they wanted. Compared to the industrialized countries, the mean preferred family size among these developing countries was high, between three and four, but women in Jordan and Kenya wanted an average of six and seven children, respectively. The average number of children desired increased with both the age of the respondent and the number of living children she already had. Not surprisingly, family size preference was somewhat higher among women with background characteristics associated with higher actual fertility. Less educated women and rural women demon-

*As used here, "exposed" refers to women who are currently in a marital or consensual union and able to bear children (including those pregnant) or who have themselves or whose husbands have been contraceptively sterilized.

strated a preference for slightly more children. Also within countries, ethnic and religious group affiliation had some effect on the size of family desired.

The number of living children had by far the strongest association with the number desired, suggesting that women may have been responding to the query about the number of children they wanted with the number they currently had. However, the extent to which women rationalized their responses in this way appears to be minimal; most women had either more or less children than their desired number.

The extent to which women are achieving their desired family size was estimated by comparing the average number of children desired with the average number of living children for women 40 to 44 years, who presumably had completed their families. This revealed some "excess fertility," that is, the number desired was less than the number of living children, by usually one-half to one in ten countries. In Kenya, Indonesia, and Paraguay, however, the reverse was true, women reportedly wanted one to two children more than they currently had.

A second measure of family size preference, and one which has assumed importance from a policy standpoint, is the desire for additional children. Women who want no more children are in most immediate need of family planning services to enable them to successfully limit their fertility. As would be expected, the percentage of women wanting no more children increased with both age and number of living children. In most of the countries, about 50 percent of the respondents wanted to stop childbearing by the time they had three living children. The percentages are much higher among women 35 and older. Also, many of the same differentials by education, residence, and ethnic group found with the mean desired family size measure emerged among women wanting no more children.

Another factor affecting the desire to stop having children is the preference for a certain sex composition among offspring. A strong desire for sons was discovered in some countries, notably Korea and Nepal, but the majority expressed a preference for a balanced sex ratio for their children.

Some researchers have felt that the desire to cease childbearing has more relevance for women who are familiar with efficient means of implementing this desire. There was a small difference in the knowledge of efficient contraceptive methods by the desire for future births in some countries. Knowledge of contraceptives was slightly higher among women who wanted no more children and clearly lowest among women who were undecided about future childbearing, suggesting that the knowledge of family planning may in itself contribute to the decision to stop bearing children.

Not surprisingly, contraceptive use was much higher among women who want to avoid future pregnancies than women who want more children, indicating an attempt to implement their stated fertility preferences. The difference in contraceptive use by educational level and urban/rural residence was much smaller among women who wanted no more children than among those using contraception as a child-spacing mechanism, further evidence that the desire for no more children is a meaningful measure and that it provides sufficient motivation to use fertility control within the context of prevailing cultural attitudes and access to contraception. ■

Appendix

Appendix Table A-1. Selected Demographic, Social, and Economic Characteristics for Countries in the WFS: 1974-79

	Year of WFS Survey	Population Estimate[a,aa] Mid-1976 (Millions)	Surface Area (1000 km²)[bb]	Birth Rate[b,aa]	Death Rate[b,aa]	Rate of Population Growth[c,aa] (Annual, Percent)	Infant Mortality Rate[d,aa]	Population Under 15 Years[aa] (Percent)	Life Expectancy at Birth[aa] (Years)	Percent Women in Union,[gg] Age 15-19	Urban Population (Percent)[f,aa]	Labor Force in Agriculture[b,cc] (Percent)	Per Capita Gross National[g,aa] Product (U.S. $)	Physical Quality of Life[g,h,dd] Index	Adult Literacy Rate[i,bb,cc] (Total)	(Female)	(Male)	Population per Physician[b,cc]	Population Having Access[b,cc] to Safe Water (Percent)	Government Position on[jj] Family Planning	Percent Married Women[gg] Using Contraception, Age 15-49
AFRICA																					
KENYA	1977	13.8	583	48	15	3.3	119	46	50	33	10	79	240	39	40	–	–	8,840	17	OP-DMR	7
ASIA																					
BANGLADESH	1975	76.1	144	47	20	2.7	153	43	46	64.8[gg]	9	78	110	32	22[cc]	20	44	11,350	53	OP-DMR	8
FIJI	1974	.6	18	29	7	2.2	41	39	70	12.0	38	44	1,150	79	75[cc]	77	85	2,300	69	OP-DMR	40
INDONESIA	1976	134.7	2,027[k]	38	14	2.4	137	44	48	31.0[m]	18	60	240	48	72[m]	59	87	16,430	12	OP-DMR	26[m]
JORDAN	1976	2.8	98	48	13	3.4	97	48	53	28.0	42	28	610	47	70	–	–	2,250	56	NOP-FPAV	22[q]
KOREA, (REP.)	1974	34.8	98	24	7	1.7	47	39	65	3.2	48	45	670	82	88	81	94	1,600	62	OP-DMR	35
MALAYSIA	1974	12.4	330	31	6	2.5	41	43	68	11.3[n]	27	44	860	73	75	58	86	4,350	62	OP-DMR	33[m]
NEPAL	1976	12.9	141	44	20	2.3	152	40	44	61.5	4	93	120	27	13	3	22	38,650	9	OP-DMR	2
PAKISTAN	1976	72.5	804[l]	44	14	3.0	139	46	51	38.0	26	58	170	36	20[cc]	12	43	3,850	29	OP-DMR	5
PHILIPPINES	1978	44.0	300	35	10	2.5	80	43	58	11.0	32	51	410	71	87[o]	–	–	3,150	39	OP-DMR	37
SRI LANKA	1975	14.0	66	26	9	1.7	47	39	68	6.5	22	54	200	82	76[o]	64	86	6,230	20	OP-DMR	32
THAILAND	1977	43.3	514	33	10	2.3	89	45	61	14.4[o]	13	77	380	71	79[o]	70	87	8,370	22	OP-DMR	33
TURKEY	1978	40.2	780	39	12	2.6	119	42	57	21.7	39	62	690	60	60	43	77	1,720	75	OP-DMR	38
LATIN AMERICA																					
COLOMBIA	1976	23.0	1,140	33	9	2.4	90	44	61	14	64	31	630	72	73	71	75	1,820	64	OP-DMR	42
COSTA RICA	1976	2.0	51	29	5	2.4	38	44	68	13	41	30	1,040	85	84[o]	84	85	1,550	77	OP-DMR	64
DOMINICAN REP.	1976	4.8	49	39	9	3.0	96	48	58	20	47	58	780	64	68	65	68	1,870	55	OP-DMR	31
GUYANA	1975	.8	215	27	7	2.0	50	44	68	25	40	31	540	84	86[cc]	86	86	3,270	–	NOP-FPAV	31
JAMAICA	1975-76	2.1	11	30	7	2.3	20	46	68	23	41	24	1,070	85	87[cc]	87	87	3,510	86	OP-DMR	39
MEXICO	1978	62.3	1,973	42	8	3.4	66	46	65	18	64	34	1,090	75	74[o]	70	78	1,840[hh]	62	OP-DMR	30
PANAMA	1977	1.7	76	32	7	2.6	47	43	66	17	50	30	1,310	79	78	78	79	1,270	79	OP-DMR	54
PARAGUAY	1979	2.6	407	40	9	2.7	65	51	62	11	38	51	480	75	80	76	85	1,190	13	NOP-FPAV	26
PERU	1977-78	16.0	1,285	40	11	2.9	80	45	56	16	55	40	800	65	72[cc]	67	90	1,580	47	NOP-FPAV	31
VENEZUELA	1977	12.3	912	36	7	2.9	54	21	65	16	75	21	1,710	79	82	73	80	1,580	75	NOP-FPAV	49

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NA = not available

a Based on most recent official country or U.N. estimate: mid-1974 estimate for most countries. Each estimate was updated to mid-1976 by applying the same rate of growth as indicated by population change during part or all of the period since 1970.

b Rates refer to 1976 and were obtained by interpolating the 1970-1975 and 1975-1980 estimates of the U.N. to 1976. The 1970-1975 and 1975-1980 rates were used in the medium variant estimates and projections as assessed by the U.N. in 1973 (U.N., *Selected World Demographic Indicators By Countries, 1950-2000).* The interpolated figures should be considered as rough approximations only.

c Birth rate minus the death rate. Since the rates were based on unrounded birth and death rates, some rates do not exactly equal the difference between the birth and death rates shown because of rounding.

d Annual number of deaths to infants under one year of age per 1,000 births.

e The percentage of women currently 15-19 years of age currently in union (as defined by each country), excluding those currently married but separated.

f The percentage of the total population living in areas defined as urban by each country.

g Data refer to either 1975 or 1976.

h Based on an average of life expectancy at age one, infant mortality, and literacy rates.

i Adult literacy is defined by source bb and cc as the percentage of those 15 or more years of age who are able to read and write. The following exceptions hold:
Source bb: Indonesia and Malaysia, 10 or more years of age.
Data from source bb and cc refer to 1970. The following exceptions hold:
Source bb: Indonesia and Nepal, 1971; Colombia, 1964; Sri Lanka and Costa Rica, 1963.
Source cc: Bangladesh and Peru, most recent estimate.
Data are from source bb unless otherwise indicated.

j The codes used to signify the government position on family planning are as follows:
OP-DMR: Official policy to reduce population growth for demographic reasons; support family planning to implement this policy.
NOP-FPAV: No official policy or statement on family planning or stated policy of non-intervention, services freely available from government centers or private clinics.

k Indonesia—including West Irian.

l Pakistan—excluding Jammu, Kashmir, Junagardh, Manavadar, Gilgit, and Baltisan.

m Indonesia—Java & Bali only.

n Malaysia—includes Peninsular Malaysia only.

o Excluding estimated adjustments for underenumeration.

q Jordan—East Bank only.

SOURCES:

aa Population Reference Bureau, *World Population Data Sheet: 1976; 1978.*

bb United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook,* 1976, T.3 and T.41; *1973,* T.33; *1971,* T.1B.

cc World Bank, *World Tables 1980: Social Indicators,* T.3 and T.5.

dd Overseas Development Council. *The United States and World Development: Agenda 1979.* T.A-4.

ff Population Reference Bureau, *Family Planning and Marriage Data Sheet: 1970-1980.*

gg WFS First Country Reports, Various Tables.

hh WHO *World Health Statistics Annual, 1978,* Vol. III, T.2.1.

Appendix Table A-2. Percent Distribution of Ever-married Women According to Total Number of Children Desired: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DESIRED											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	Mean
AFRICA												
Kenya	0.1	0.2	1.2	2.4	13.3	12.8	20.3	10.0	14.0	25.7	5,093	7.2
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC												
Bangladesh	0.5	1.4	13.2	24.6	32.7	13.7	7.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	4,438	4.1
Fiji	0.3	1.7	17.5	22.3	22.9	15.0	9.5	4.8	3.4	2.8	4,021	4.2
Indonesia[a]	0.3	3.2	14.3	22.0	23.3	16.0	9.6	4.7	3.1	3.6	7,475	4.2
Jordan	0.1	0.5	5.6	8.1	20.7	12.3	15.1	8.3	8.5	20.8	3,612	6.3
Korea, Rep. of	0.3	1.5	24.1	41.2	20.0	10.9	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	5,363	3.2
Malaysia	0.2	0.6	8.9	11.2	46.2	32.9[b]	—	—	—	—	6,094	4.4
Nepal	0.2	1.1	13.7	29.6	28.3	14.1	6.7	2.4	2.1	1.8	5,917	3.9
Pakistan	0	0	10	16	43	16	9	5[c]	—	—	4,803	4.3
Philippines	0.0	1.5	12.9	23.6	25.5	13.2	9.2	4.8	3.6	5.7	9,256	4.4
Sri Lanka	0.1	3.4	22.0	27.8	19.0	12.7	6.3	3.7	2.4	2.7	6,791	3.8
Thailand	0.0	3.1	20.7	25.3	27.2	12.5	6.6	2.1	0.9	1.1	3,622	3.7
Turkey[a]	0.7	2.3	40.2	31.0	17.0	4.0	2.1	0.6	0.3	1.8	3,970	3.0
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN												
Colombia	0.6	3.3	22.7	25.4	19.2	9.4	6.6	2.5	2.8	7.0	3,278	4.1
Costa Rica	1.0	2.2	16.8	23.7	20.6	9.7	9.2	2.5	3.0	11.2	3,037	4.7
Dominican Republic	1.2	1.1	12.6	24.9	24.5	35.8[b]	—	—	—	—	2,199	4.7
Guyana	1.0	1.3	14.2	18.8	26.7	12.3	11.2	3.7	2.6	8.2	3,592	4.6
Jamaica	1.9	3.6	21.2	17.8	28.1	7.8	9.1	2.4	2.6	5.6	2,758	4.1
Mexico	0.9	2.0	19.3	21.8	21.8	9.8	9.6	2.9	3.4	8.5	6,111	4.4
Panama	0.7	1.5	15.5	27.1	24.5	10.0	9.6	3.1	2.4	5.6	3,199	4.2
Paraguay	0.1	2.4	10.3	18.7	20.0	14.3	11.2	5.2	5.9	11.9	2,973	5.1
Peru	1.2	3.9	22.5	21.7	23.6	7.6	8.6	1.2	2.1	3.4	5,528	3.8
Venezuela	0.4	2.6	19.3	23.4	25.4	8.7	9.7	2.2	2.6	5.7	2,685	4.2

[a] Refers to currently married women only.

[b] 5 or more children desired.

[c] 7 or more children desired.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.1 except Fiji and Sri Lanka (special tabulations); Indonesia (4.3.1B); Malaysia, Pakistan, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Panama (3.4.1B); Nepal (3.4.1A); and Thailand (3.4.2A).

Appendix Table A-3. The Probability of Stating a Given Number of Children as the Desired Number by Whether the Actual Family Size Equals the Desired Number, Currently Married Women: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	Desired Number of Children	PERCENT OF WOMEN Number Living Equals Number Desired	Number Living Not Equals Number Desired	Difference
Bangladesh	0	1.2	0.4	0.8
	1	4.2	0.8	3.4
	2	19.5	12.1	7.4
	3	35.9	22.7	13.2
	4	55.3	29.6	25.7
	5	41.4	10.6	30.8
	6	27.7	5.6	22.1
	7	23.3	1.4	21.9
	8	24.1	1.9	22.2
	9+	32.6	1.4	31.2
Indonesia	0	1.0	0.0	1.0
	1	8.8	1.8	7.0
	2	26.8	11.6	15.2
	3	41.3	18.7	22.6
	4	50.0	19.5	30.5
	5	53.7	12.3	41.4
	6	52.0	6.4	45.6
	7	49.6	2.9	46.7
	8	41.9	2.2	39.7
	9+	61.2	2.7	58.5
Jordan	0	0.8	0.0	0.8
	1	2.1	0.3	1.8
	2	10.0	5.1	4.9
	3	13.0	7.7	5.3
	4	25.5	20.1	5.4
	5	29.0	10.4	18.6
	6	36.4	12.5	23.9
	7	31.9	6.0	25.9
	8	32.5	7.7	24.8
	9	31.8	2.8	29.0
	10	41.7	7.0	34.7
	11	23.7	1.5	22.2
	12	27.3	1.8	25.5
	13+	55.2	4.0	51.2
Kenya	0	0.0	0.1	−0.1
	1	0.2	0.2	0.0
	2	2.4	1.0	1.4
	3	5.7	1.9	3.8
	4	15.0	13.1	1.9
	5	23.8	11.4	12.4
	6	26.9	19.6	7.3
	7	32.5	8.0	24.5
	8	35.5	13.3	22.2
	9	37.3	4.0	33.3
	10	36.2	12.6	24.4
	11+	65.9	8.6	57.3

(continued . . .)

Appendix Table A-3. The Probability of Stating a Given Number of Children as the Desired Number by Whether the Actual Family Size Equals the Desired Number, Currently Married Women: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	Desired Number of Children	PERCENT OF WOMEN Number Living Equals Number Desired	Number Living Not Equals Number Desired	Difference
Korea, Rep. of	0	0.8	0.4	0.4
	1	3.1	1.2	1.9
	2	36.2	21.2	15.0
	3	51.8	38.8	13.0
	4	35.7	16.2	19.5
	5	25.9	9.1	16.8
	6	6.2	0.9	5.3
	7	1.2	0.3	0.9
	8	4.8	0.2	4.6
	9	0.0	0.1	−0.1
	10	0.0	0.2	−0.2
Mexico	0	1.7	0.8	0.9
	1	4.6	1.6	3.0
	2	27.3	17.9	9.4
	3	31.7	20.3	11.4
	4	39.5	19.4	20.1
	5	25.6	7.9	17.7
	6	25.5	8.2	17.3
	7	19.2	1.8	17.4
	8	12.3	2.9	9.4
	9	8.5	0.9	7.6
	10	9.0	2.9	6.1
	11	8.5	0.2	8.3
	12	16.2	2.5	13.7
	13+	25.9	0.1	25.8
Paraguay	0	0.7	0.0	0.7
	1	6.7	1.3	5.4
	2	13.1	9.6	3.9
	3	22.1	18.2	3.9
	4	27.4	19.3	8.1
	5	29.3	13.0	16.3
	6	27.3	10.2	17.1
	7	22.9	4.4	18.5
	8	22.8	4.9	17.9
	9	24.3	2.0	22.3
	10	24.5	3.5	21.0
	11+	58.82	3.7	55.12
Peru	0	0.80	1.24	−0.44
	1	11.80	2.68	9.12
	2	32.59	21.47	11.12
	3	31.86	20.71	11.15
	4	36.05	23.21	12.84
	5	15.35	6.92	8.43
	6	18.20	8.10	10.10
	7	5.87	0.97	4.90
	8	10.57	1.93	8.64
	9	3.77	0.35	3.42
	10+	15.34	2.95	12.39

(continued . . .)

Appendix Table A-3. The Probability of Stating a Given Number of Children as the Desired Number by Whether the Actual Family Size Equals the Desired Number, Currently Married Women: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	Desired Number of Children	PERCENT OF WOMEN Number Living Equals Number Desired	Number Living Not Equals Number Desired	Difference
Philippines	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1	5.7	0.9	4.8
	2	28.3	10.2	18.1
	3	43.7	20.1	23.6
	4	55.2	20.8	34.4
	5	50.2	8.8	41.4
	6	46.8	5.3	41.5
	7	36.4	2.2	34.2
	8	32.4	2.1	30.3
	9	33.5	0.8	32.7
	10	31.6	1.4	30.2
	11	18.0	0.3	17.7
	12	25.8	0.9	24.9
	13+	40.0	0.2	39.8
Turkey	0	0.7	0.7	0.0
	1	3.8	2.0	1.8
	2	47.3	38.4	8.9
	3	40.5	28.8	11.7
	4	24.8	15.8	9.0
	5	8.7	3.5	5.2
	6	6.0	1.9	4.1
	7	1.4	0.6	0.8
	8	3.5	0.2	3.3
	9	0.0	0.2	−0.2
	10+	7.7	0.9	6.8
Venezuela	0	0.39	0.37	0.02
	1	6.55	1.60	4.95
	2	19.32	19.30	0.02
	3	36.36	21.28	15.08
	4	46.01	22.70	23.31
	5	38.97	6.10	32.87
	6	41.67	7.76	33.91
	7	23.53	1.21	22.32
	8	23.53	1.92	21.61
	9	24.59	0.53	24.06
	10+	50.65	3.22	47.43

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.3A except for Indonesia (4.3.1B) and Kenya (3.3.3B).

*Appendix Table A-4. Mean Number of Children Desired by Number of Living Children (Including Any Current Pregnancy), Ever-married Women Aged 15-49: WFS Countries**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN											Number of Cases
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+	Total	
AFRICA												
Kenya	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.3	8.0	8.2	8.9	9.8	7.3	4,566
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC												
Bangladesh	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.6	6.4	4.1	4,386
Fiji	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.5	4.1	4.9	5.8	6.4	6.9	8.0	4.2	4,025
Indonesia[a]	2.9	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.8	5.6	6.0	6.4	7.3	8.4	4.1	7,466
Jordan	4.4	4.7	4.7	5.6	5.6	6.4	6.8	7.3	7.8	8.5	6.3	3,612
Korea, Rep. of	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.9	3.2	5,362
Malaysia	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.9[b]	—	—	—	—	4.4	6,250
Nepal	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.4	4.8	5.2	5.4	6.2	6.5	3.9	5,917
Pakistan	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.8[c]	—	—	4.2	4,803
Philippines	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.6	4.3	4.9	5.5	5.8	6.3	7.2	4.4	9,256
Sri Lanka	2.5	2.3	2.7	3.3	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.7	6.1	7.3	3.8	6,790
Thailand	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.9	3.7	3,629
Turkey[a]	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.5	4.0	3.8	4.5	3.0	3,970
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN												
Colombia	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.8	4.2	4.7	4.9	5.6	5.9	6.7	4.1	3,278
Costa Rica[d]	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.3	4.8	5.4	6.1	6.9	6.9	7.9	4.7	3,037
Dominican Republic	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.9	6.1[b]	—	—	—	—	4.7	2,199
Mexico	3.3	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	4.4	6,111
Panama	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.4	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.7	4.2	3,199
Paraguay	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.6	5.2	6.1	6.9	7.9	8.1	9.8	5.1	2,973
Peru	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	3.8	5,418
Venezuela	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.8	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.9	6.6	7.9	4.2	2,683

* Not available for Jamaica or Guyana.

[a] Data available only for currently married women.

[b] Five or more living children.

[c] Seven or more living children.

[d] Ever-married women aged 20-49.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.3.4B except for Fiji and Sri Lanka (special tabulations); Indonesia (4.3.2A); Malaysia, Pakistan, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic (3.4.3B); Nepal (3.4.3A); and Thailand (3.4.4A).

Appendix Table A-5. Mean Desired Family Size and Desire for No More Children by Number of Living Children, Ethnic Origin, and Religious Affiliation, Currently Married Women: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	DESIRED FAMILY SIZE 0	1	2	3	4	5+	Mean	Total Women	Adjusted Mean[a]
AFRICA									
Kenya									
Ethnic Group (3.3.7G)									
Kikuyu	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.3	7.4	7.0	1,085	
Luo	5.4	5.6	5.5	6.3	6.6	7.8	6.5	938	
Lukya	6.8	6.1	6.4	6.9	6.7	8.1	7.1	723	
Kamba	8.4	6.0	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.7	7.3	556	
Kisii	6.5	6.8	6.4	7.3	7.5	9.3	8.1	319	
Meru	|-5.6-|		6.4	5.1	6.8	7.4	6.8	271	
Mijikenda	8.1	8.8	8.7	8.1	9.0	10.1	9.0	278	
Other	6.6	7.5	7.5	8.8	8.0	9.2	8.4	498	
Religion[b] (3.3.7D)									
Catholic	6.1	6.0	6.3	6.8	7.0	8.1	7.1	1,687	
Protestant	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.5	8.0	7.0	2,444	
Moslem	8.4	7.8	8.3	7.9	7.8	9.3	8.4	253	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC									
Fiji									
Religion (G26)									
Methodist	2.4	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.3	6.0	4.1	1,270	
Catholic	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.5	5.0	6.2	4.4	309	
Hindu	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.4	4.0	6.0	4.2	1,868	
Moslem	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.6	4.1	6.4	4.4	327	
Other	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.4	4.1	6.1	3.9	195	
Jordan									
Religion (3.3.7C)									
Moslem	|-4.6-|		4.7	5.7	5.7	7.6	6.4	3,258	
Catholic	|-3.0-|		3.0	5.0	4.6	5.6	4.5	73	
Other	|-3.2-|		3.0	3.5	3.8	5.0	4.2	127	
Korea, Rep. of									
Religion[b] (3.3.7C)									
None	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.5	4.0	3.3	3,102	
Buddhist	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.2	1,167	
Christian	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.0	665	
Malaysia									
Ethnic Group[b] (3.4.6B)									
Malay	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.5	5.0	5.4	4.7	3,202	
Chinese	3.4	3.4	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.1	1,969	
Indian	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.6	541	
Religion (3.4.6D)									
Muslim	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.5	5.0	5.4	4.7	3,210	
Christian	2.6	2.4	3.1	4.0	3.4	4.0	3.4	157	
Hindu	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.5	455	
Buddhist	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.1	1,380	
Other	3.5	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.1	536	
Sri Lanka									
Religion[b] (3.4.7D)									
Buddhist	2.5	2.4	2.6	3.3	4.0	5.5	3.9	4,089	(3.7)
Hindu[c]	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.4	4.0	5.5	3.8	1,161	(3.8)
Muslim	2.8	2.6	3.0	3.3	4.1	6.0	4.2	422	(3.7)
Christian	2.6	2.0	2.5	3.2	3.6	5.0	3.4	474	(3.4)

(continued . . .)

Appendix Table A-5. Mean Desired Family Size and Desire for No More Children by Number of Living Children, Ethnic Origin, and Religious Affiliation, Currently Married Women: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	DESIRED FAMILY SIZE 0	1	2	3	4	5+	Mean	Total Women	Adjusted Mean[a]
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN									
Guyana									
Ethnic Group (3.3.3D)									
African[c]	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.7	6.6	4.8	1,076	(4.8)
Indian	3.1	2.9	3.4	4.0	4.5	6.1	4.6	1,753	(4.3)
Other	3.6	3.7	3.6	4.2	4.9	6.1	4.6	373	(4.6)
Panama									
Religion (3.4.6C)									
Catholic[c,d]	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.4	5.9	4.3	1,204	(4.3)
Catholic[e]	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.4	5.3	4.3	1,337	(4.1)
Non-Catholic	2.8	2.9	3.5	3.8	4.7	6.2	4.5	179	(4.3)

[a] Means were adjusted for the differences in the number of living children.

[b] "Other" group of less than 50 cases was excluded.

[c] Used as the standard distribution for adjustment.

[d] Refers to Practicing Catholics.

[e] Refers to Non-Practicing Catholics.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports. Table references are given in parentheses under each country.

Appendix Table A-6. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Want No More Children by Current Age: WFS Countries

COUNTRY	AGE 15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Total	Number of Cases
AFRICA									
Kenya	1.7	4.1	11.7	19.2	25.4	39.6	41.6	16.6	5,133
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC									
Bangladesh	34.4	53.1	65.3	79.3	86.3	90.6	93.6	62.8	5,106
Fiji	9.9	20.4	39.3	58.4	72.5	84.3	88.8	49.5	4,159
Indonesia	6.3	16.2	32.9	50.7	61.8	74.4	84.0	38.8	6,556
Jordan	7.0	15.4	32.2	50.9	66.0	77.2	75.6	41.7	3,069
Korea, Rep. of	5.5	24.4	54.5	83.6	92.3	97.2	97.4	71.6	4,385
Malaysia	4.0	11.2	26.7	48.2	64.3	77.7	78.6	42.7	4,917
Nepal	1.8	11.4	27.2	41.3	55.1	66.2	71.4	29.6	4,886
Pakistan[a]	4	18	39	61	74	84	93	49	4,618
Philippines	11.1	25.9	42.3	56.9	71.3	76.2	79.3	54.3	7,893
Sri Lanka	14.1	29.9	46.5	68.4	80.1	85.9	94.2	61.4	5,318
Thailand[b]	15.7	33.8	49.1	68.5	77.7	86.2	89.9	56.9	2,604
Turkey	10.4	29.6	49.4	69.2	84.0	91.6	90.4	51.1	3,742
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN									
Colombia	32.0	38.0	54.0	72.0	78.0	80.8	83.0	61.0	2,667
Costa Rica[c]	—	21.1	38.2	54.6	72.0	78.8	78.0	52.0	2,446
Dominican Republic	19.3	30.9	45.5	53.2	59.0	63.6	68.5	44.7	1,456
Guyana	22.8	26.8	39.8	62.1	74.5	82.3	86.1	51.1	3,041
Jamaica	23.1	28.8	35.9	48.6	53.7	53.3	66.5	41.5	2,131
Mexico	21.4	31.6	54.6	68.0	78.9	83.8	81.6	57.1	4,883
Panama[c]	—	28.2	55.2	70.9	78.8	83.7	87.9	63.0	2,525
Paraguay	12.2	13.7	17.6	29.5	48.3	58.3	64.3	32.3	2,373
Peru	30.8	41.5	53.9	68.0	75.2	79.3	80.1	61.4	4,530
Venezuela[d]	22.6	33.0	48.7	67.9	78.0	85.9	—	55.0	2,205

[a] Includes infecund women.

[b] Excludes pregnant women.

[c] Excludes women under 20 years of age.

[d] Women over 45 included in a 40+ category.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.1.1 except Fiji (special tabulations), Indonesia (4.1.1A), and Thailand (3.1.1A).

Appendix Table A-7. Percent of Currently Married "Fecund" Women Who Want No More Children by Ethnic Origin and Religious Affiliation: Selected WFS Countries

COUNTRY	Percent	Total Women
FIJI		
Religion		
Methodist	41.1	1,332
Catholic	32.1	330
Hindu	56.1	1,946
Moslem	59.1	342
Other	53.3	210
GUYANA		
Ethnic Group		
All Ethnic	51.1	3,041
Indian	59.4	1,672
Non-Indian	40.9	1,369
JORDAN		
Religion		
Moslem	40.2	2,893
Catholic	58.0	66
Other	71.0	11
KENYA		
Ethnic Group		
Kikihu	27.4	1,186
Luo	12.3	1,024
Luhya	18.2	797
Kamba	20.0	535
Kisu	9.2	344
Meru	15.0	314
Mijitenda	6.4	323
Other	9.4	626
Religion		
Catholic	15.5	1,857
Protestant	19.5	2,655
Muslim	9.8	278

COUNTRY	Percent	Total Women
KOREA, REP. OF		
Religion		
None	69.7	2,752
Buddhist	76 4	969
Christian	71.5	603
MALAYSIA		
Ethnic Group		
Malay	35.7	2,831
Chinese	49.8	1,651
Indian	61.1	411
Religion		
Muslim	35.7	2,835
Christian	58.1	117
Hindu	61.5	348
Buddhist	49.6	1,157
Other	50.1	457
PANAMA		
Religion		
Catholic (Practicing)	61.0	1,113
Catholic (Non-Practicing)	66.1	1,241
Non-Catholic	53.8	171
SRI LANKA		
Religion		
Buddhist	62.6	2,831
Hindu**	57.1	1,011
Muslim	55.9	363
Christian	66.6	401

* "Other" group of less than 50 cases was excluded.

** Used as the standard distribution for adjustment.

Sources: WFS First Country Reports, Table 3.1.3D except Fiji (G-4); Guyana (3.1.3E); Kenya (3.1.3G (ethnic group)); Korea and Panama (3.1.3C); and Malaysia (3.1.3B)

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